Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle Correspondence January-June 1891

by

Sarah Orne Jewett

Edited by Terry Heller
Coe College

Copyright 2025
Sarah Orne Jewett Press
1296 30th ST
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

~~abc~~ : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Internet Access to this Text

The Internet Archive

and

Sarah Orne Jewett Text Project
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/1-jewettpress/index-sojp.html

Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents" appears in a separate volume and on the internet here: https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Jewett's immediate family

Caroline Frances Perry (1820 - 21 October1891), Jewett's mother.

Mary Rice Jewett (18 June 1847 - 28 September 1930), Jewett's older sister, often addressed as O.P.

Sarah Orne Jewett. (3 September 1849 - 24 June 1909) Among those closest to her, she often goes by a nickname, Pinny Lawson or Pin.

Caroline (Carrie, Taddy) Augusta Jewett (1855 - 1 April 1897), Jewett's younger sister.

Others

Thomas Bailey Aldrich: (1836-1907), author and editor of *Atlantic Monthly*. Jewett also wrote often to his wife, **Lilian Woodman Aldrich** (1841-1927).

Louisa (Loulie) Loring Dresel (1864-1958), painter, photographer, traveler, a neighbor of Annie Fields.

Annie Adams Fields: (1834-1915), author and eventually Jewett's domestic partner. Jewett often refers to her as A.F. During their travels in Europe during this year, Fields and Jewett were accompanied by Fields's Irish-born employee, **Liza / Lisa.**

William Dean Howells: (1837-1920), novelist, critic, editor at *Atlantic Monthly*, a mentor to Jewett.

Celia Laighton Thaxter: (1835-1894), American author and artist, nicknamed Sandpiper.

Sarah de St. Prix Wyman Whitman: (1842-1904), American artist and designer of several Jewett book covers.

John Greenleaf Whittier: (17 December 1807 - 7 September 1892), American poet, frequently called "Thy Friend." Often mentioned in letters to and from him are members of his family: Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Whittier's cousin **Gertrude Cartland** (1822-1911) accompanied Whittier traveled together in summers, and he lived in their home at Newburyport, MA, for most of his last fifteen winters. **Phebe Woodman** (1869-1953), adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921). Whittier's nephew **James Lewis Caldwell** (1839-1895) married Adelaide McClung (1843-1902). **Elizabeth Hussey** (1843-1909) was the daughter of Whittier's brother **Matthew** and namesake of his sister. She married Samuel T. Pickard, editor of the Portland *Transcript* and, later, biographer of Whittier. See *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 1, p. 337, *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* by Richard Cary.

Adelaide Cilley Waldron to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*1 January 1891*]

My dear Miss Jewett:

It was a great pleasure to receive the note you were so kind as to write to me some time ago, and had it not been for burdening you with even one more letter to read, I would have replied at once that none can be so able as yourself to give charm to any of the traditions of the colonists. I do not feel at all well acquainted with those of my own blood, to venture to reproduce them, and my ways have lain aside from the scenes of sorrow which my

[*Page 2*]

my ancestors knew in common with their associates. My grandparents died either before, or soon after, my birth, so that I had no happy hearings of the sort usual to more fortunate children, and all that I know of the past — of familiar nature — is from my father and mother.

I venture to send a New Year greeting in the shape of a little verse, as one may to a neighbor, from whom one has received many pleasant words.

Since eighteen miles is not a long distance, I hope that at "sometime, somewhere, somehow" I

[*Page 3*]

may have the pleasure of more personal acquaintance with you —

With wishes for a blessed and happy New Year to you, I am

Sincerely your friend

Adelaide Cilley Waldron

Farmington, N.H.

Jan. 1, 1891.

Note

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Louise Chandler Moulton to Sarah Orne Jewett

28, Rutland Square

Boston, Jan. 4 —

[*1891*]*

Dear Miss Jewett,

Your "Strangers and Wayfarers" so greatly delighted me that I wish to thank you for the pleasures of it — I enclose a brief

[*Page 2*]

mention of it from my letter in to-day's Herald.*

Yours very Sincerely —

Louise Chandler Moulton

Notes

1891: Jewett's story collection, *Strangers and Wayfarers*, appeared at the end of 1890.

Herald: Wikipedia notes that Moulton published a weekly literary letter in the Sunday *Boston Herald* 1886-1892. The clipping she mentions is included with this letter.

> How different from this ghastly tragedy is the tender and unaffected pathos of such short stories as Miss Sarah Orne Jewett gives us in "Strangers and Wayfarers." I remember the surprise with which a certain little girl once saw me cry over a book. "Why, it's all a made-up story, mamma," she said, with a highly superior air, "and I shouldn't think you'd cry over stories. You know they're not true; you make 'em yourself." I was glad that little girl did not see me when I was reading "The Town's Poor," for I should have been "crushed again."
>
> Did even Miss Jewett ever write a tenderer, more entirely lovely and perfect story than this? I think not. I have lived in a New England country town myself, and I know the type of the Janes homestead, with its gnawed dooryard fence, and the two or three ragged old hens in the yard. I can see Mrs. Janes come to the door, with her face tied up in a handkerchief, and suffering from ague. I am acquainted with kindly Mrs. Trimble, and with Rebecca Wright, spinster; but it was Miss Jewett's happy fortune to discover "the Miss Brays," so generous and hospitable in their poverty, so patient in their forlornness, so pathetic in their simple

dignity. I am glad to know them. Life is richer because they are in the world.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 Subseries, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: Louise Chandler Moulton. Undated. 1 ALS. Boston, MA. 2 p.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Monday morning

[*Early January 1891*]*

My dear Fuff —

I had a great headache yesterday, and it wouldn't go off until I had gone to bed in despair but this morning I am only battered. I considered it to be the damp snow but perhaps ~~it goes~~ such a neurology [! might *?*] have had other excuses than mere weather. But I shall keep in today.

Oh I was so dreadfully pleased

[*Page 2*]

with Mr. Alden's* entirely proper note! I have a peculiar feeling about that poem as being one of your best and one of my dearest — I do feel anxious about the Mrs. Dresser business* — lest you haven't thought to tell Dr. Morton* for she is touchy* in her doctorly heart and most devoted in her private capacity as a friend and has done I honestly

[*Page 3*]

believe all a doctor could. You might as well try to mind cure yourself if you had burnt your hand at the library fire as to mind cure your pipes which are stung by the winter weather.

What a mind cure can do for you is to help you bear up under the pipes and you have been so worn and fretted by your illness that I hope and pray [Mrs. *corrected*] Dresser may soothe and help you in her way. And when we are pulled

[*Page 4*]

down so far that we "cant be sensible ourselves" as the Twin* spoke of being pleasant! Why then somebody who can put us in the way of calmness and patience with our disorders is a great benefactor. If you wouldn't go away ^and be well^ the only thing was to say; now I have got to make myself as comfortable as I can here, but you wanted to stay* and be well, and are disappointed. If I could have begged you to go to Baltimore even and stay in the Mt. Vernon

[*Page 5*]

Hotel a fortnight! but I didn't think of that. One of hardest things in this hard winter has been that I couldn't do things for you, dear darling. Of course we would have skipped right off early last month — and there would have been the end of your woes.

Forgive my writing all this — at any rate forgive anything that annoys you if I have said such a thing, for indeed I love you and only wish to show it ——

[*Page 6*]

— I dont know what it is in the Houghton book* so [smirky *?*] and self-applauding and insistent & monotonous. Unless it is Mr. Wemys Reid the biographer! I cant think that Lord Houghton was so like that and yet beloved of Fitzgerald* and such men. But I feel in most their letters a second sort of friendship for him. Fitzgerald doesn't write to him as to his best beloved nor do Carlyle or Tennyson.

I wonder if you will disagree with me. But he ought to be in Westminster Abbey for having

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of p. 6*]

saved Sydney Smiths & Carlyles fun at the end of the book. Dearest Fuff I have every thing to say, but here is John for the mail.

Always your

— Pinny

Notes

Early January 1891: This date is based upon Jewett indicating that she has begun reading Reid's biography of Richard Monckton Milnes, published in 1891. Fields dates a slightly later letter discussing this biography to January of 1891. Unless the biography was available before 1891, perhaps for the 1890 holiday season, Fields's date may be somewhat early. But it should be close.

Mr. Alden: Henry Mills Alden, editor at *Harper's Magazine*. Key to Correspondents. Presumably, he has accepted work by Fields. During 1891, two Fields poems appeared in *Harper's*: "Silence and Solitude" in April and "The Singing Shepherd" in December.

Mrs. Dresser business: Probably, Fields has announced a plan to consult Annetta G. Seabury Dresser (1843-1935), wife of Julius Alphonso Dresser (1838-1893). She and her husband were practitioners of the "Quimby System of Mental Treatment of Diseases," a rival and possible precursor of Christian Science.

Dr. Morton: Dr. Helen Morton. Key to Correspondents.

touchy: Though Richard Cary also reads this word as "touchy," it is difficult to be certain about this; it might easily read "lonely" or "lovely." Jewett seems to have crossed the first letter, and I have let that decide for me.

Twin: This transcription is uncertain. If Jewett has written "Twin," then she may refer to one of the sisters (who were not twins) whom she often called "the Twins," Helen Olcott Choate Bell and Miriam Foster Choate Pratt. Key to Correspondents.

to stay: Jewett underlined these words three times.

Houghton book: Sir Thomas Wemyss Reid's (1842-1905) biography of Richard Monckton Milnes (1809-1885) is *The Life, Letters, and Friendships of Richard Monckton Milnes, First Lord Houghton* (1891).

Fitzgerald ... Carlyle ... Tennyson ... Sydney Smith: British poets Edward Fitzgerald (1809-1883) and Alfred Lord Tennyson. Scottish author, Thomas Carlyle (1785-1881) and English author Sydney Smith (1771-1845).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

[*January 1891*]

well, dont you think so?)*

I think better of the Lord Houghton book* as I see it more, just as you did! What an exquisite letter that is of Tennyson's when R.M.M was cross at him* and what a dear kind old pat on the shoulder our reverend Sydney Smith gave him when R.M.M. thought he had been called names of the cool of the evening &c &c ! And I do so like Carlyle's first long letter from Fryston to his wife — (where speaks of Mrs.

[*Page 2*]

(Milnes the Elder* as high-sailing! = It has been such a lovely quiet snowy day — just the kind I like to be hard at work in. I am getting to be a great looker out of the window and I see so many things that I should like to snap my camera at, only the light is always wrong. [*an apparently stray mark appears in the margin to the right of this sentence.*]

— Another letter from S.W.* with printing inside and a feigned hand outside which you shall see when I come.)

Notes

January 1891: This manuscript is a 2-page fragment; both the beginning and the ending of the letter are absent. It appears with other passages from Jewett letters that Fields dates to January 1891. The reference to Reid's biography of Richard Monckton Milnes, published in 1891 indicates that this date should be close.

so?): This and all other parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled in by Fields.

Lord Houghton book: Sir Thomas Wemyss Reid's (1842-1905) biography of Richard Monckton Milnes (1809-1885), *The Life, Letters, and Friendships of Richard Monckton Milnes, First Lord Houghton* (1891). The Tennyson letter is in v. 1, pp. 179-80. See v. 1, pp. 213-215 for the Smith letter. The Fryston estate was Milnes's home. Carlyle's long letter to his wife is in v. 1, pp. 255-58.

S.W.: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

In *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 83, Fields includes a passage from this letter.

I think better of the Lord Houghton book, as I see it more, just as you did. What an exquisite letter that is of Tennyson's, when R. M. M. was cross at him, and what a *dear* kind old pat on the shoulder our reverend Sydney Smith gave him,

when R. M. M. thought he had been called names of the "cool of the evening," etc., etc. And I *do so* like Carlyle's first long letter, from Fryston to his wife.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*6 January 1891*]*

Beloved Friend: when I did not find you at 148 on Friday I knew there must be some fresh anxiety: and I find myself thinking of you and loving you a great deal. This is always true: but I must tell you so tonight — and send you besides a mes-

[*Page 2*]

boon* of the New Year with its trembling hopes, its intimations, its retrospect. The year always comes as a person to me: and this one has a gentle look: and perhaps will lay a soft hand on us. At all events one can live and love in it — and so one turns to and rallies on one's abstract propositions.

I have much to say to you Christmas-wise — boughs and tall vases have been sweet to my eyes, to comfort my heart besides: & I have your profile & had much to think of. But you will guess most of it. All this is for is to ask a blessing of grace for you darling.

SW

Notes

Jan 6, 1891: This date is noted in another hand in the upper right of the first page. It is supported by the envelope that accompanies this letter. The envelope is addressed to Jewett in South Berwick.

boon: Though the alternate transcription below joins these two pages, it appears likely that there is a page missing, for page two does not follow from page 1.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 - 107.

Transcription from *Letters of Sarah Wyman Whitman* (1907)

Part of this letter appeared on p. 69.

A message of the New Year with its trembling hopes, its intimations, its retrospect. The year always comes as a person to me; and this one has a gentle look and perhaps will lay a soft hand on us. At all events one can live and love in it, and so one turns to and rallies on one's abstract propositions.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louise Chandler Moulton

South Berwick Maine*

6 January 1891

Dear Mrs Moulton

I thank you sincerely for your kind words; it gives me great pleasure to think that you like the stories of my Strangers and Wayfarers,* and "have made no strangers of them" as we say in the country!

I hope that you have come

[*Page 2*]

back from your pleasant summer, feeling quite well and strong. You see that I feel quite sure of it having been pleasant!

I send you most cordial good wishes for the New Year{.} That's my best thanks for your note, and beg you to believe me

Yours most truly

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Maine: There are several numbers in the lower left corner of page 1, apparently identification marks for Library of Congress. With this letter in the LOC folder is a matching envelope, addressed to 28 Rutland Square, Boston, and cancelled 6 January 1891.

Strangers and Wayfarers: Jewett's story collection of this title appeared in 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress in the Louise Chandler Moulton papers, 1852-1908. MSS33787. This transcription of from a microfilm copy of the manuscript, on Reel 8 of Microfilm 18,869-15N-15P.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Alice Greenwood Howe

South Berwick

9th of January 1891

My dear Alice

You were very good to remember me in sending such a pleasant invitation, but I am afraid I shall not be in town for a long time yet as my mother* has been very ill again and I am staying at home almost constantly this winter.

Every body is most delighted at the news of the Fogg Library.*

[*Page 2*]

You may be sure that nobody is more pleased than I am.

With my best thanks for the invitation, believe me ever yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

mother: Jewett's mother died in October 1891. Key to Correspondents.

Fogg Library: Richard Cary notes:

> A tablet in the Fogg Memorial Library, a wing of Berwick Academy, states: "This building was erected AD 1894 in memory of William Hayes Fogg. Born in Berwick, Maine, Dec. 27, 1817. Died in New York City, March 29, 1884." Although Miss Jewett refers to him as "a former pupil" in "The Old Town of Berwick," *New England Magazine,* n.s.x (July 1894), 604, he is not listed as such in *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy* (July 1, 1891). Fogg left Berwick as a young man and accumulated a fortune in the China and Japan trade. A large legacy left to the school by his widow was announced at this time. Miss Jewett concerned herself with the planning and construction of the building, and Sarah Wyman Whitman designed the stained glass windows and directed the interior decoration.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

[*14 January 1891*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

Will you please send to Mifs R. E. Watson, Addison Vermont* (and charge to my account.) a copy of Tales of New England; of Betty Leicester; of Looking Backward; (paper cover) and Ascutney Street. I think that if there is no American Express to Addison you must send them by mail — at any rate I wish to prepay them.

Yours very truly

S. O. Jewett

South Berwick

14 January

Notes

1891: Part of the top of page 1 has been torn away. It appears that near the upper right corner of page 1, in another hand is: "S. O. Jewett 1/14". In the right corner is a Houghton Mifflin date stamp: 15 January 1891. In the left top corner is a notation in blue ink that seems to read: "a 712/c". Penciled diagonally across the addressee is a notation that seems to read: "Am X find".

To the left of Jewett's signature on page 2 are initials that may be OJB.

On the back of the page is a Riverside Press date stamp that is not easily readable, though the year 1891 seems clear.

Jewett requests copies of two of her own 1890 books: *Tales of New England* and *Betty Leicester*. American author, Edward Bellamy (1850-1898), published his utopian novel, *Looking Backward*, in 1888. American poet and author of fiction for girls, Adeline Dutton Train Whitney (1824-1906) published her novel, *Ascutney Street* in 1890.

A check mark appears before each title, presumably added as the requests were fulfilled.

R. E. Watson, Addison Vermont: In 1876, Rosamond Elizabeth Watson became a postmaster near West Addison, Vermont.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS

Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Saturday afternoon, 17 *January*, 1891.

This is a short word for you to read on Monday morning, written at the close of a dark and stormy afternoon. I have been sitting in mother's room, reading your big Rumford book,* which I somehow have taken into my head again. He was such a charioteer! What do you think that he did once but have every beggar in Munich arrested! and then sorted them out after careful examination, giving work to those who needed it, and helping all deserving, and dealing with the naughty ones. There was a huge work-house, for instance, where they were put at trades. You would be much pleased with the accounts, and some time we must talk about it. I have felt a little tired and clumsy-handed, and the Rumford book was just the thing. The count was really such an interesting man. Oh, if this young republic could have had his practical wisdom!

Notes

your big Rumford book: Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford (1753-1814). According to the *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, the American born scientist left the colonies in 1776, because he opposed the American rebellion, and was knighted for service to England in 1784. He then "became aide-de-camp to the elector of Bavaria. During his 11 years in Bavaria, Thompson reorganized the Bavarian army, abolished mendicancy in Munich, and established workhouses for the poor. In 1791 the elector made Thompson a count of the Holy Roman Empire." The "big" Rumford book is very likely, George E. Ellis (1814-1894), *Memoir of Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford* (1871).

This letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

Emily Sargent to Sarah Orne Jewett

Jan^{y} 18th '91

[*Begin letterhead in ochre ink which depicts, upper left corner,*

a scene in Egypt, featuring pyramids and other elements]

Hotel Continental

CAIRO

EGYPT

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Mifs Jewett;

Thank you so very much for that charming volume* you so kindly sent me by John. I find hardly any time for writing here, as we are out nearly all day, sketching or sightseeing. I might have written to thank you before, but during the [brief *?*] intervals, have been reading your stories, so please forgive the seeming negligence. I like them

[*Page 2*]

immensely — I do not know where I have read any that seemed so life-like — I feel as if I saw & heard all you describe. I cannot tell you how charming I think them — so pathetic & true.

I wish some day I might have the pleasure of knowing you — unfortunately, Europe & America are so far apart — Whenever I hear people say "how small the world is," I never can agree with them. I think it is much too large.

We are all delighted with

[*Page 3*]

Cairo, and are looking forward to a short trip of 22 days up the Nile, as far as Philae. We expect to leave in the steamer of the 18th & John is dreadfully torn to pieces about going with us, as he is very much interested in working here. He has at last found a rather bad studio, but the [models *?*] are not reliable, so he has great difficulties to combat with. However he is very much [engrossed *?*] & yet wants to see the Nile too. I hope he will come, & be glad he has, if he does tear himself away from here after all. He wants to be in Seville by the 18th of March,

[*Page 4*]

so there will not be much time here on our return, before we have to sail again for Gibraltar. Mamma has been suffering so much from

rheumatism in her knee, that she & Violet go now every morning to some sulphur baths, near here, which are said to be very efficacious. As Violet is rheumatic also, she goes too.

I know John intended [*deletion*] to write to Mrs Fields,* so I will enclose this in his letter.

Thank you again for your little book, which I am so glad to own. I shall like to read the stories more than once. John & Violet are out, or they wd. send kind messages. May you have a very happy New Year — yrs. very sincerely

Emily Sargent.

Notes

volume: Probably Jewett has sent her story collection of 1890, *Strangers and Wayfarers*. She also published *Tales of New England* in 1890, but it came out in the late spring.

John is Sargent's brother, John Singer Sargent. Later in the letter she mentions her much younger sister, Violet. Key to Correspondents.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 194. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Monday night

19 January [*1891*]*

Dear Fuff

I now humbly apologize for presuming to suggest Wanda* but I thought it would amuse you and waste a day or two's time — just as ~~its~~ it has done! It grows dull at the last but it is nice and picturesque at the beginning. I don't believe that you are any the worse for it — you aren't quite equal to hard reading and you must be doing something

[*Page 2*]

on account of your grand-mother's having been a May.* I hope after this humility to be reinstated in your respect and affection. Novels are good as they go along — it is only when they stop that you take it in that the pretty bubble is made of a spatter of soap suds! (Please to remember this nice simile!) (* I had a delightful letter tonight from Helen Merriman.* I must bring it and read it when I come — and this reminds me to say — it is chiefly about S.W.'s* little portrait — that

[*Manuscript breaks off. No signature*]

Notes

1891: Fields has added and then deleted "1892" in the upper right, in blue pencil. However, Jewett mentions a portrait that Sarah Wyman Whitman is working on for Helen Bigelow Merriman (see notes below), a portrait Jewett appears to mention again in a letter to Fields almost certainly composed 30 June 1891. In 1891, January 19 fell on Monday.

"Wanda": *Wanda, Countess von Szalras* (1883) is by British novelist, Ouida (pseud, of Louise de la Ramée (1839-1908).

a May: One of Annie Fields' grandmothers was a member of the old abolitionist and reforming May family. See Blanchard, p. 126.

(: This parenthesis mark was inserted by Fields in blue pencil.

Helen Merriman: Key to Correspondents.

S.W.'s little portrait: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

Fields includes a paragraph from this letter in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), pp. 165-6. The manuscript of the second paragraph here has not yet been located.

I now humbly apologize for presuming to suggest "Wanda," but I thought it would amuse you and waste a day or two's time just as it has done! It grows dull at the last, but it is nice and picturesque at the beginning. I don't believe that you are any the worse for it — you aren't quite equal to hard reading and you must be doing something on account of your grand-mother's having been a May. I hope after this humility to be reinstated in your respect and affection. Novels are good as they go along. It is only when they stop that you take it in that the pretty bubble is made of a spatter of soap suds! (Please to remember this nice simile!)

As you say, what a delightful thing it is to have the mood for books on one and the chance to give up everything for it, but with me it doesn't last many days, that enchanting and desperate state of devouring cover and all.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Silas Weir Mitchell

South Berwick Maine

19 January 1891

My dear Doctor Mitchell

I looked eagerly into the new book for the poem of the Centurion* and his little daughter, and having found it read it and liked it more than before — with the memory of that late afternoon when you yourself read it to me last summer. I thank you with double gratitude

[*Page 2*]

for this treasury of poems and for your most kind remembrance.

I have read enough already to be sure that I [shall *corrected*] read again ^often^ in my best leisure these new pages of your best work. I find myself saying over, with a thrill at my heart, as I write:

"Chants at the gates of morn and night
Great songs that lift us from the dust."

I was very sorry to miss seeing you at Mifs Ticknor's*

[*Page 3*]

in the late autumn — but all the autumn and winter I have been watching the slow course of my mother's sad illness* here in Berwick as I have not been in winter for a good many years before.

I send you today as I meant to send you long ago, my new book of stories.* You will be sure to know that the S. W. of the dedication stands for

[*Page 4*]

Sarah Whitman* and you will also know that the green and white, [springlike *corrected*] cover of this winter's book is of her planning — and so take the stories kindly for her sake as well as mine.

Please thank your dear daughter for the charming little note she sent me, and give my very best regards to Mrs. Weir Mitchell{,}

Yours most gratefully and sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Centurion: Jewett refers to "The Centurion," which was collected in Mitchell's 1890 book, *A Psalm of Deaths and Other Poems*. Jewett on p. 2 quotes a pair of lines from another poem in the collection: "Tennyson."

Mifs Ticknor's: Anna Eliot Ticknor. Key to Correspondents.

illness: Jewett refers to the fatal illness of her mother, Caroline Frances Perry Jewett, who died on October 21, 1891.

stories: Jewett published two volumes of stories in 1890. The new collection was *Strangers and Wayfarers*.

Whitman: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Morgan Library & Museum. MA 2971. Record ID: 104725. Accession Number: MA 2971.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Frederic Allison Tupper

South Berwick, Maine

20th of January 1891

My dear Sir

I am sorry to be so late in thanking for your kindness in sending me your book, Echoes from Dream-Land.* It was unfortunately mislaid for some time and has only appeared on my desk again today. I am sure that the writing of these pages must have given you much pleasure

[*Page 2*]

and I wish to thank you for the pleasure which the verses called [The *corrected with capital* T] Poet's Boyhood* have given me. I believe that I care more for them than any of the others which I have had time to read yet.

With best acknowledgments of your kind attention, believe me

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Echoes from Dream-Land: Richard Cary describes Tupper's book: "A volume of some

eighty-five poems, among them several class odes and baccalaureate hymns, but predominantly nature lyrics in simple Wordsworthian strain; published in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, in 1890."

"The Poet's Boyhood," says Cary is "A seventeen-quatrain reminiscence of his immersion in nature and emergence as a poet of its moods, unfolded in a series of familiar bucolic images and one Aeschylean epithet."

This letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine: JEWE.1. It was originally transcribed, edited and annotated by Richard Cary for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

South Berwick. Maine

21 January 1891*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

Will you please send a copy of Strangers & Wayfarers* to Mifs Haliburton. Care Mrs. H. B. Duryea Battery Park Hotel Asheville N.C. — and charge to my account?

I only have four volumes of the new edition of Lowell's Works here. (in red cloth without gilding) Will you please send ~~them~~ ^the next^ here unless by chance they have

[*Page 2*]

already been sent to me in Charles Street.* Please send with them five copies Strangers & Wayfarers and five copies of Tales of New England* with two copies of the large paper edition if they are still to be had.

Yours very truly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

1891: At the top center of page 1, in another hand: "S. O. Jewett. 1/21". Near the left corner is a Houghton Mifflin date stamp: 21 January 1891. To the left of and overlapping this stamp in blue ink is a notation that appears to read: "a 733 [*unrecognized letters*]". A vertical pencil line has been drawn through the center of the first paragraph; at the bottom end of the line appears this note inside a circle: "Trans Jan 2[*?*] M".

At the bottom of page 2 is an initial that may be Y. Also to the left is a partial date stamp from Riverside Press, reading 21 January 1891.

Strangers and Wayfarers: Jewett's collection of stories appeared near the end of 1890. It is not perfectly clear whether underlining in this letter is by Jewett or by her reader at Houghton Mifflin.

Mifs Haliburton: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents. Jewett varies the spelling of her name. The Battery Park Hotel mentioned here was new in 1891, having been completed in 1886.

Ellen Homer Winchester (1861-1927) married, as her second husband, the New York race-horse-breeder and sportsman, Herman [Harmanus] Barkulo Duryea (1863-1916).

Lowell's Works: *The Works of James Russell Lowell* (1890), from Houghton Mifflin, totaled 10 volumes. For Lowell, Key to Correspondents.

Before this phrase in the left margin is a circled mark, which appears to be "A". The mark appears to be in ink, while the circle is penciled. Before "Will you please" also in the left margin are the initials: "MJ."

Charles Street: Jewett also received mail at the address of Annie Adams Fields, 148 Charles Street, Boston. Key to Correspondents.

Tales of New England: Jewett requests copies of one of her two 1890 books: *Tales of New England*. A check mark appears before each number in this sentence, presumably added as the requests were fulfilled.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Wednesday night

[*21 January 1891*]

Dearest Fuff

(I begin to feel as if I shouldn't get to you this week after all. I shall try to come early next week — but dont you think it is wiser to wait until I can stay two nights? (I am very much disappointed, but now that Mary* isn't well I cant be spared by night.) She is feeling better this evening but I

was afraid as I told you, that she was going to have the other kind of "The La Grippe.") It is all true that you say about Wanda*

[*Page 2*]

but I did like her very much and only set down certain silly things as merely the fault of the writer! as if Wanda had been unlucky in her biographer. And all the landscape was charming to me about the old castle — and that fine wild bit about her town been* flooded and her rushing to its rescue.

To* descend to sublunary themes will you please let Mr W. J. Williams* pay this little bill?

And what did Judy* say about the funeral last Saturday or couldn't she go by reason of

[*Page 3*]

the storm? Dont write the answer! it is a talky thing.))

This morning I was out, taking a sober drive about town with John* soberly driving, and I saw [*deleted word*] such a coast from way up the long hillside down to the tavern garden. And directly afterward ^down in the valley^ I beheld Stubby* faring along with his sled which is about as large as a postage stamp. I borryed it, as you say, and was driven up to the top of the hill street and down I slid over that

[*Page 4*]

pound cake frosting of a coast most splendid, and meekly went back to the village and returned the sled. Then an hour later in bursts Stubby with shining morning face: "There were two fellows that said Aunt Sarah was the boss. She went down side-saddle over the hill just like the rest of the boys !!!!" Stubby seemed to think that we had entered upon a new chapter of friendship. He hadn't an s to his back ath he converthed upon the great thubjeck but I confess that it was a very good coast and I wished that I had time for more — (It makes

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

me quite wishful about Alice* to think of all the coasting privileges and deep snow going to waste.)

[*No signature*]

Notes

21 January 1891 : Fields penciled "Winter" and "1895?" in the upper right of page 1. However, this letter seems fairly clearly to continue a discussion of the novel *Wanda* in a letter to Fields that seems to have been composed on Monday 19 January 1891. Parenthesis marks in this letter have been penciled in by Fields.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Wanda: *Wanda, Countess von Szalras* (1883) is by Ouida (pseud, of Louise de la Ramée, 1839-1908).

been: Fields appears to have changed this to "being" in pencil.

To: Fields appears to have marked this paragraph with an angled line in green pencil.

Mr W. J. Williams: This person has not been identified. There were several people of this name in the Boston area in 1890.

Judy: Probably this is Judith Drew Beal, stepdaughter of Annie Fields's sister, Louisa Adams Beal — who also was nicknamed Judy. See Annie Fields in Key to Correspondents.

thing.)): Fields has penciled both parenthesis marks, the first in green.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Stubby: Theodore Jewett Eastman.

(It: Parentheses around this passage are by Fields in green pencil.

Alice: Which of the Alices among the Jewett and Fields acquaintances Jewett speaks of here is not clear. Alice Longfellow had a reputation for enjoying vigorous outdoor activities. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

Fields includes a passage from this letter in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 51. She dates her composite letter Thursday night, 4 December, 1889.

This morning I was out, taking a drive about town with John and I saw such a coast from way up the long hillside down to the tavern garden, and directly afterward down in the village I beheld Stubby faring along with his sled, which is about as large as a postage-stamp. So I *borryed* it, as you say, and was driven up to the

top of the hill street and down I slid over that pound-cake frosting of a coast most splendid, and meekly went back to the village and returned the sled. Then an hour later in bursts Stubby, with shining morning face: "There were two fellows that said Aunt Sarah was the boss, she went down side-saddle over the hill *just like the rest of the boys!*"

Sarah Orne Jewett to Dana Estes

South Berwick Maine

22 January 1891*

My dear Mr. Estes:

Will you give my best thanks to your committee and say that I regret very much that I cannot accept their polite invitation to the Dinner of the Pine Tree State Club* on the twenty-eighth of January. Nobody at the feast will be more proud and fond of his native state than I am

[*Page 2*]

of what Whittier has called our "hundred-harbored Maine."*

Believe me ever

Yours sincerely

Sarah Orne Jewett

Notes

1891: In Colby folder with this letter are two different envelopes addressed to Estes at 301 Washington Street, Boston, cancelled on the back in Boston on 22 January 1891 and on the front in South Berwick, ME.

Club: Richard Cary says the Pine Tree State Club was an "organization of native Maine men living in and around Boston which convened periodically for intellectual and social fellowship."

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Cary notes that Jewett's quotation is from Whittier's "The Dead Ship of Harpswell."

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Dana Estes

South Berwick

22 January

[*1891*]*

Dear Mr. Estes

After writing my note of this morning I have remembered that Mrs. Richards of Gardiner* is probably in town at 241 Beacon Street, and that you will undoubtedly like to have her asked to your dinner. I am very sorry that I was compelled

[*Page 2*]

to decline — but I am kept here this winter by the serious illness of a member of our family,* and it is impossible for me to count upon going to town even for a day.

If all the Maine-born people are as proud of Mrs. Richards — the child of Maine's adoption — as I am, then they are very proud indeed! I

[*Page 3*]

hope that I am right in thinking that she is available for your dinner company* on the 28th ——- but you are likely to know, since she is of your publishing household —*

Believe me, with best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1891: In Colby folder with this letter are two different envelopes addressed to Estes at 301 Washington Street, Boston, cancelled on the back in Boston on 22 January 1891 and on the front in South Berwick, ME. Both were cancelled at 2 p.m.

Richards: Laura Elizabeth Richards. Key to Correspondents.

family: Jewett refers to the final illness of her mother, who died in October 1891.

company: Jewett refers to her invitation to the Pine Tree State Dinner. See the other letter, Jewett to Estes of 22 January 1891.

household: Richard Cary notes: "Estes had already published eight of Mrs. Richards' books, one of which was her most durable novel, *Captain January*. No less than forty-four others appeared under the imprints of Estes & Lauriat

and D. Estes & Company in the next twenty-two years."

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Newburyport

Mass

Jan 23. 1891*

My beloved friend

I have been thinking of thee, and wondering if Sarah* is with thee. I hope so, for I fear thee are giving thyself too much to thy work this winter, while she is absent; and cannot repeat the Apostolic injunction "Do thy self no harm."*

I wonder if the ice-storm presented a finer spectacle in Boston Common than in the High Street of Newburyport with its 2 mile elm avenue. I never saw

[*Page 2*]

such a transfiguration before. From certain points of view the prismatic colors tangled the trees with rainbows.

I came here ten days ago, and have not yet reached Amesbury. I have been able to get out into the streets a little here, as the sidewalks are a little better cared for [than *corrected*] in [Danvers *corrected*].*

I am much relieved from the anxiety I have had in regard to the Indian trouble. It looked at one time as if bloody battle was inevitable. I had great confidence in Gen. Miles*, who is as

[*Page 3*]

humane as he is brave, but I feared poor crazed "ghost dancers" would baffle all his pacific intentions. I am not sure that it would not be better for the Indians, and safer for the white settlers of Dakota & Nebraska if the care and protection of the Indians could be transferred to the War Department. Our U. S. army officers are not speculators, and would not cheat the Indians in the distribution of the Government. I am afraid Elaine Goodale* has made a hazardous experiment in her marriage. As a rule

[*Page 4*]

an Indian's wife is not an enviable position. The noble red man [has *corrected*] scarcely as much regard for the rights of women as our Massachusetts Legislators.

I wish I could look in upon thee, dear friend. There is so much I would like to say, so much I would like to hear. God bless thee! I am ever gratefully thy friend

John G Whittier

My cousins send their love.

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

I have greatly enjoyed Scott's Diary.* Phebe* has read it with keen interest. She will return the volume.

Notes

1891: Penciled at the top center of page 1: "7". In the left margin of this page, 3 lines from the bottom, an "x" is penciled.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

no harm: See the Bible, Acts 16:28.

Gen. Miles: In notes for his transcription, John B. Pickard wrote:

> In the winter of 1890-1891 there was a serious outbreak of the Sioux Indians in Dakota which General Miles suppressed and effected the Indians return to government control.
>
> Nelson Appleton Miles (1839-1925) entered the military at the outbreak of the Civil War and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1864. He fought hostile Indians until 1891 and in 1895 was appointed commander-in-chief of the army.

It appears that Whittier wrote before learning of the Wounded Knee massacre on 29 December 1890, which, according to Wikipedia, took place under Miles's command, though he neither approved nor defended it.

Danvers: At this point, Whittier shifts from blue to black ink. In the left margin of page 2, 3 lines from the bottom, an "x" is penciled.

Elaine Goodale: In notes for his transcription, John B. Pickard wrote:

> Elaine Goodale (1863-1953), a Massachusetts authoress, taught at the Hampton Institute and in 1890 became the superintendent of all Indian schools in North

and South Dakota. In 1891 she married Dr. Charles A. Eastman, a Sioux graduate of Dartmouth and Boston University.

Charles Alexander Eastman (1858-1939) was a government physician and an attorney for the Sioux Indians in the Dakotas.

In the left margin, about 1/3 down page 3, is a penciled "x."

Massachusetts Legislators: Woman suffrage in Massachusetts struggled until the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The legislature and male voters in the state repeatedly defeated suffrage proposals, though by 1892, Massachusetts women generally were able to vote in school board elections.

Scott's Diary: *The Journal of Sir Walter Scott*, (1890) first edited and published whole in 2 volumes by a Fields and Jewett friend, David Douglas. See Whittier to Fields of 12/22/1890 and also Key to Correspondents.

Phebe: Phebe Woodman. See above the Whittier entry in Jewett's Principal Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4852. This letter has been transcribed previously by Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Kate Knowlton Foote

South Berwick Maine

23rd of January

[*1891*]*

My dear Mrs Foote

I thank you very much for two charming cards of invitation to which I have been sorry not to respond, but I am kept at home this winter by my mother's illness and it is impossible to count upon getting to town,

[*Page 2*]

even for a day or two.

With my best thanks for your kind remembrance and my regards to Mr Foote.

Pray believe me ever

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1891: Jewett's mother, Caroline Frances Perry, died on 21 October 1891. She reports in other letters of January 1891 that she is remaining at home to care for her mother.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett Fragment

January 31, 1891.

I am led to wonder if time given to acquaintances and enemies is really worth as much towards one's everlasting salvation as if friends were allowed to come into the scheme of organization a little more freely.

Notes

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

[*Late January 1891*]*

[*We*] drove four or five miles up into the country yesterday and took some photographs of the fields and old [showy *or* snowy *? blotted*] houses and lanes. It was a lovely afternoon and I* did me good.

The February Harper is full of good things — I wish you would get it at once right out of the cheque ! ! ! as a last years Christmas present from me. There is a quaint archaic touch in little Guineys poem to Izaak Walton,* and I do so like Craddock* who takes time and is lost to sight, to memory

[*Page 2*]

dear and writes a good big Harpers story. So does "Sister" with one for the Atlantic called Felicia; so does not S. O. J.* whose French ancestry comes to the fore and makes her nibble all round her stories like a mouse. They used to be as long as yardsticks, they are now as long as spools and they will soon be the size of old fashioned peppermints: and have neither

beginning or end, but shape and flavor may still be left them, and

[*Page 3*]

a kind public may still accept [when *corrected from* them *?*] there is nothing else. One began to write itself this morning called The Failure of Mr. David Berry — which almost made me cry when I thought of it, but I have written a quarter and [*deleted words*] it goes very well indeed and seems to have its cheerful points:*

What a long letter! but what years of talk we should have had that Sunday! Dear dear Fuff keep on getting well — and [*deleted words* don't let *?*] we wont let anything spoil our courage and hope.

[*Page 4*]

(Yours with dear love Pinny

I do not tell you about poor mother because one day is much like the day before — [continuing of *?*] something that can be eaten and making sure of enough sleep and all those things. It is a wonder how cheerful she keeps and uncomplaining though she worries about things sometimes in a ~~path~~ piteous way — and when we find it out and assure her she forgets them again — She is on the sofa now, and likes the change from the bed — Good bye again dear from P.L. who loves you.)

Notes

Late January 1891: Fields gives this letter a positive date: 12 *October*, 1890. However, given the notes below, this seems unlikely. Jewett could not have read a publication of Guiney's poem until the appearance of the February 1891 issue of *Harper's Monthly*.

Fields has penciled an insertion at the beginning of this text: "We". Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

I: In pencil, Fields has deleted "I" and inserted "it".

Louise Guiney's poem to Izaak Walton,... Craddock ... so does Sister, with one for the "Atlantic" called Felicia: Louise Imogen Guiney's (1861-1920) "For Izaak Walton" appears in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 82 Issue 489 (February, 1891) p. 441. The poem was collected in: *Happy Ending: The Collected Lyrics of Louise Imogen Guiney, New Edition* (1907). A text appears below.

Isaak Walton (1593-1683) was the British author of *The Compleat Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation* (1653). After he retired from business, he lived in Winchester.

Charles Egbert Craddock is the *nom de plume* of Mary Noailles Murfree (1850-1922). Also in the February 1891 *Harper's* was her "In The 'Stranger People's' Country," pp. 359-384. She is remembered for *In the Tennessee Mountains* (1884).

"Sister": M. N. Murfree sister, Fanny Noailles Dickenson Murfree (1846-1941) was the author of *Felicia* (1891), a novel that began in July 1890 in *The Atlantic*.

For Izaak Walton by Louise Imogen Guiney

Can trout allure the rod of yore
In Itchen stream to dip?
Or lover of her banks restore
That sweet Socratic lip?
Old fishing and wishing
Are over many a year.
Oh, hush thee, Oh, hush thee! heart
innocent and dear.
Again the foamy shallows fill,
The quiet clouds amass,
And soft as bees by Catherine Hill
At dawn the anglers pass,
And follow the hollow,
In boughs to disappear.
Oh, hush thee, Oh, hush thee! heart
innocent and dear.
Nay, rise not now, nor with them take
One amber-freckled fool!
Thy sons to-day bring each an ache
For ancient arts to cool.
But, father, lie rather
Unhurt and idle near;
Oh, hush thee, Oh, hush thee! heart
innocent and dear.
While thought of thee to men is yet
A sylvan playfellow,
Ne'er by thy marble they forget
In pious cheer to go.
As air falls, the prayer falls
O'er kingly Winchester:
Oh, hush thee, Oh, hush thee! heart
innocent and dear.

not S. O. J: Pieces by Jewett do appear early in the year, such as her two-part holiday story in *Ladies' Home Journal*: "Mrs. Parkinson's Christmas Eve." Her other stories of 1891 are perhaps shorter than much of her previous fiction.

"The Failure of Mr. David Berry": Jewett's story appeared in *Harper's* in June 1891. Jewett's end

punctuation is ambiguous. I have rendered a colon as it appears, but perhaps she intended an exclamation point.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields transcription

This appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 81.

There is a quaint archaic touch in Louise Guiney's poem to Izaak Walton, and I do so like Craddock, — # who takes time, and is lost to sight, to memory dear, and writes a good big Harper's story. So does Sister,# with one for the "Atlantic" called Felicia; so does not S. O. J., whose French ancestry comes to the fore, and makes her nibble all round her stories like a mouse. They used to be as long as yardsticks, they are now as long as spools, and they will soon be the size of old-fashioned peppermints, and have neither beginning or end, but shape and flavor may still be left them, and a kind public may still accept when there is nothing else. One began to write itself this morning called "The Failure of Mr. David Berry"; I have written a quarter, and it goes very well indeed, and seems to have its cheerful points.

Fields's notes

Charles Egbert Craddock is the *nom de plume* of Miss Mary N. Murfree.

Miss Murfree's sister.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier
Fragment

S. O. Jewett South Berwick

26 January — Monday

[*1891*]*

My dear friend

I have been wondering about thee for a day or two and thinking that I did not know whether thee was at Amesbury or Oak Knoll which is not a proper state of things for so near a relation as I am! Perhaps thee may be snowed up, as I thought we were going to be yesterday. I had to send out and have the old lilac

[*Page 2*]

shaken, their tops were so full of snow that I was afraid they would [break *corrected*] down, and the drifts went nearly to the tops of the fences right here about the yard and garden . . This merits the name of an old fashioned winter surely. I have been snow-shoeing once and coasting twice with great pleasure to myself, but I am so anxious to keep decently well that I take great care of S.O.J. who seems to be needed a good deal this winter! My

[*Page 3*]

mother has been dangerously ill again and for two or three weeks we had to be constantly on the watch — Now she seems better again, but I suppose the doctors would only say 'more comfortable.' I have only been able to leave her for one night since before Christmas — to go to town to see our dear A.F:* who has been ill too, almost a month, with a severe attack of grippe which has left her in bed and very miserable. You can imagine how hard it has been for me sometimes to keep away from

[*Page 4*]

her — but she is down in the [library *corrected*] again now and when I saw her week before last — she was already on the mend but finds it very slow getting her strength up. It has been a sad winter to me so far, but it is so long since I have been in "Barvik"* steadily after cold weather came that I find a good deal of pleasure in that.

I suppose you saw in the newspapers that we have had a library fund given to us? I am full of plans about it you may be sure, and I am most intent upon having a good large pleasant reading

[*No signature*]

Notes

1891: Almost certainly "S. O. Jewett" is in another hand.

Below this, to the left, is a penciled note in another hand: "1891." This date almost certainly is correct, as 26 January fell on a Monday in 1891. That also was the final year of the life of Jewett's mother.

A.F: Annie Adams Fields.

Barvik: An archaic name for Berwick. See Jewett's "Looking Back on Girlhood" (1892) and "The Old Town of Berwick" (1894).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University,

Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers I. Letters to John Greenleaf Whittier Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 17 letters; [1882]-1883., [1882]-1883. Box: 3 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (169).

Silas Weir Mitchell to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

1524 WALNUT STREET..

[*End letterhead*]

[*27 January 1891*]

On my word there is a mysterious glamour, a shadow of sea odours about the little book* — [Saw *?*] any one ever the shadow of an odour — But when words say to oneself the right thing* why hesitate to [test *?*] with them anothers

[*Page 2*]

capacity to feel — It is a delightful little book — very like you I think & I have half a mind to say why.

I did not wait for the gift — but went & bought the book & read it all — I hope to read other books which God will yet let you write. If the watch has not been severe & sad I could

[*Page 3*]

[envy *?*] you in solitude. I have lived in a cyclone of work — ever since I left Newport —

Yrs very truly

Weir Mitchell

I want to say more about the notable little book but there is no time & it must wait until we meet.

[27th *?*] Jan. 91 —

[*Page 4*]

Oh but I must say that the morning boat is still delightful & that somehow with so little of the sea there is my seaside glamour — and the mistress of Sydenham plantation is delicately perfect — a lace like prettiness & sadness, as of old lace —

Notes

little book: Mitchell refers to Jewett's collection, *Strangers and Wayfarers* (1890). which included "The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation" and "By the Morning Boat."

right thing: These words may be underlined.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 155 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

47, State St — Ports.

Jan. 28th (91

My dearest Annie:

I am so delighted to have your dear letter! I was just going to write to you & ask if you sent this heavenly gray gown that came this afternoon, such a delicious clean, clear gray & so soft & pretty! Did you, dear Annie? I am ashamed to have bewailed my [gown less *so it appears*] state if you did! But I am so pleased to have the lovely thing, for I just had a note from the dye house whither I had sent my old duds hoping to re color them grey — that it couldnt be done, that they were too "greenery-yellery" & would be all in streaks, & so I was quite low in my mind! And the door bell rang & lo, out of the clouds drops a new gown as fresh & delicately colored as a morning cobweb in summer, or a kittiwakes* wing, or a waft of soft cloud — Much pleased am — I, but do tell me if you sent it or if you know who did!

[*Page 2*]

Thursday. This afternoon I sent you by express a bunch of pussy willows & the lovely alder catkins that shake out their powdery curls of flowers in a week after you put them in jar of water in the house. My brother & I went out to the Gosling road for them — it snowed so thickly we could hardly see them! & I went literally up to my arm pits in the snow banks & got them! it was great fun. I wouldnt let him get out to get them for he hadn't on his rubber boots & I had, but deary me, I disappeared all but my head, engulfed in the drifts — he nearly died laughing

[*Page 3*]

at me floundering out & rolling & "wallowing" in the milk white [meal *?*] till at last I reached the road on all fours. But I got 'em! And I was so glad to hurry them off to you. You never saw any thing like the woods all about here, crushing down in all directions, great pines laden with tons weight ^of snow^ & branches cracking & splitting right & left. The woods are a scene of wonder all in pure & matchless white, tree beyond [tree *corrected*], deep into the middle of the great companies of trees, all so pure, & the fields are lakes of milk from wall to wall, up even

with fence tops & walls & sometimes over them, so that the boundaries are lost.

Thank you for telling me of Arthur.* He is very imposing in this great big

[*Page 4*]

photograph. Baron & Baroness Schönberg Roth Schönberg sent him to me, if you please!

Bradford Torrey just sent me Edith Thomas'* "Inverted Torch" & I think it is all perfectly beautiful, the only thing I stopped at in the whole vol. was the word "vespertine" — O, its a lovely book, & I go with her hand in hand every step of the way, every mood, every thought I know.

I'm so glad Pinny* got to you even for a little{.} But, dearest Annie, I'm so sorry you are yet housed! Do be careful — I cant bear to have you under the weather —

I'm so glad to hear from you, do write when you can — I am hasting this for the mail. Who did send me the silver gown?! Do you know? I'm dying to thank somebody! In haste ever most lovingly your

CT:

My Roland* sails for Jamaica tomorrow.

Notes

kittiwakes: Two species of seagull.

Arthur: This person has not been identified.

Baron & Baroness Schönberg Roth Schönberg: Samuel Gray Ward (1817-1907) was an American businessman and poet associated with the Transcendentalists. His youngest daughter, Elizabeth Barker "Bessie" Ward (1847-1920), married the Austrian Baron Ernst Augustus Schönberg-Roth-Schönberg (1850-1924).

Bradford Torrey ... Edith Thomas': American ornithologist Bradford Torrey (1843-1912) authored *Birds in the Bush* (1885) and *A Rambler's Lease* (1889).

American poet, Edith Matilda Thomas (1854-1925) published *The Inverted Torch* in 1890. Key to Correspondents. Poem 34 (p. 51), opens with this stanza:

> How on the moment all changes!
> Quietude midmost the throng,
> Peace amid tumult, and dissonance
> Charmed into vespertine song!

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Roland: Thaxter's youngest son. Key to Correspondents

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 6 (250-269).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday morning

29 January 1891

My dearest Fuff —

I have been suffering great pangs of conscience because I have spoken with you about going out, and never took it into account whether the Doctor had said you might! I took it for granted that there had been talk of a [lark *?*], and that you were only waiting for the weather to be right. One practitioner ought to be very careful about interfering with another.

Now I will tell you about my day yesterday which consisted of the duties of a nurse at intervals and two or three hours of writing and at three o'clock

[*Page 2*]

going down with John* to get Mary's* new horse home — she having been clipped — and we drove Sheila* over and I led her home by her halter at the back of the sleigh and she was great fun. It was a good mild day for a drive and I like so much better going off in that way about a little business — Sheila is always so knowing and funny — and noses me all [over *corrected*] after her sugar when I get home with her. A couple of lumps seem so disproportioned in size to

[*Page 3*]

being the pleasure they are to her thousand pounds of weight —

Here it is snowing again! but it seems like a good day to me because I wish to get a good lot of writing done. Mother slept well last night and has waked up bright this morning.

X* I read Madame Bovary* ~~this~~ ^all^ last evening though I only took it up for a few minutes and meant to do some writing afterward. It is quite wonderful how great a book he makes of it. People talk about dwelling upon trivialities

[*Page 4*]

and commonplaces in life, but a master-writer gives everything weight and makes you feel the distinction and importance of it and count it upon the right or the wrong side of a life's account. That is one reason why writing about simple country people takes my time and thought. ——- But I should make too long a letter for this short morning. Flaubert who sees so far into the shadows of life may "dwell" and analyze and reflect as much as he pleases with the trivial things of life — the woes of Hamlet* absorb our thoughts no more than the silly wavering gait of this Madame Bovary who

[*Page 5*]

is uninteresting — ill-bred, and without the attraction of rural surroundings. But the very great pathos of the book to me, is not the sins of her but the thought all the time if she could have had a little brightness and prettiness of taste in the dull doctor — if she could have taken what there was in that dull little village! — She is such a lesson to dwellers in country towns who drift out of relation to their surroundings not only social, but the very companionships of nature, unknown to them. (* I hope you are not

[*Page 6*]

having too much trouble with the road paper!* If I were there I believe that I would go to Manchester and get it signed! I believe that Mr. Meldram* would sign it — wasn't he my friend of last year's selectmen with whom I came up to town? He has business in town and Mr Grew* would know about him and William could go— and find him.

But good bye dear — I will send the Fortnightly in a day or two but I wish to read the rest of the Bulgarian paper* first — I do not think that you were in a hurry were you? I find that it is the Nineteenth Century that you want! but I will try and send it tomorrow.

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 6*]

With dear love to you darling Fuff — your affectionate friend

Pinny

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

I think Alice's letters sound cheerful and wise — dont you? and what a dear refined little ["fist" *?*] Dicky* writes!

Notes

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Mary's: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Sheila: Jewett's first horse, purchased in 1877.

X: Fields has penciled the X here, to mark the spot at which she began her selection.

Madame Bovary ... Flaubert: French author, Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880) published his novel, *Madame Bovary,* in 1857.

Hamlet: In William Shakespeare's play of that name, Hamlet speaks in his most famous soliloquy about taking arms against "a sea of troubles" (Act III, Scene I).

them (: This parenthesis mark was penciled in green by Fields.

road paper: Presumably this refers to the road issue Jewett mentions in her letter to Fields of 12 October 1890.

Mr. Meldram: Though this transcription is uncertain, it seems likely that Jewett refers to Nathan Preston Meldram (1837-1919), who was a selectman for the town of Manchester-by-the-Sea, MA in 1887-1889. He served the community in a number of other posts after that period.

Mr. Grew: Probably this is Henry Sturgis Grew (1834-1910). His wife was Jane Norton Wigglesworth (1836-1868). A successful Boston businessman, Mr. Grew had homes in Boston, Hyde Park, and Manchester-by-the-Sea. The Manchester home was the Sumacs, on Masconomo St.

William: Presumably a Fields employee, he has not yet been further identified.

Fortnightly ... Bulgarian paper: Jewett almost certainly was reading James D. Bourchier, "On the Black Sea with Prince Ferdinand" in *The Fortnightly Review* 49 New Series (1 January 1891), pp. 82-101.

Alice's ... Dicky: Among the several "Alices" who were friends of Jewett and Fields, this probably is Alice Longfellow. See her and Richard Henry Dana III in Key to Correspondents. Dicky would be her nephew, Richard Henry Dana IV (1879-

1933), son of her sister, Edith, who married Richard Henry Dana III.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

In *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 81, Fields includes a passage from this letter.

I read "Madame Bovary" all last evening, though I only took it up for a few moments and meant to do some writing afterward. It is quite wonderful how great a book Flaubert makes of it. People talk about dwelling upon trivialities and commonplaces in life, but a master writer gives everything weight, and makes you feel the distinction and importance of it, and count it upon the right or the wrong side of a life's account. That is one reason why writing about simple country people takes my time and thought. But I should make too long a letter for this short morning. Flaubert, who sees so far into the shadows of life, may "dwell" and analyze and reflect as much as he pleases with the trivial things of life; the woes of Hamlet absorb our thoughts no more than the silly wavering gait of this Madame Bovary, who is uninteresting, ill-bred, and without the attraction of rural surroundings. But the very great pathos of the book to me, is not the sin of her, but the thought, all the time, if she *could* have had a little brightness and prettiness of taste in the dull doctor, if she could have taken what there was in that dull little village! She is such a lesson to dwellers in country towns, who drift out of relation to their surroundings, not only social, but the very companionships of nature, unknown to them.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Hopkinson Smith*

South Berwick Maine,

1 February 1891

My dear friend the Author of

Colonel Carter of Cartersville!*

I have wished to write you every time the first of the month has brought me The Century to thank you for the very great pleasure I am taking in your most delightful story. Indeed I like it more and more

[*Page 2*]

as it goes on. I shall be so glad when I see you again, and can tell you many things that I believe about your rendering of such an enchanting hero, better than I can ^tell you^ here with pen and ink. Pray give my kindest remembrance to Mrs. Hopkinson Smith and believe me ever with best thanks and regards,

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Colonel Carter of Cartersville: *Colonel Carter of Cartersville* (1891) is a short humorous novel in which a Virginia gentleman, Colonel Carter, finds himself stranded in New York with no money. Jewett read the story as a serial in *Century Magazine* November 1890 - April 1891.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the Autograph Collection at the Loyola University (Chicago) Archives and Special Collections, item 1470, and may be viewed at Loyola University Chicago Digital Special Collections. Original transcription by Sarah Morsheimer. New transcription and notes.

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

Feb'y 1, 1891.

[*Begin letterhead*]

184 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett:

I had written about your book* for some far forthcoming Study, and when I took it up just now to read something over again in it, I thought I had thanked you for it. Thank you now and always. — I opened and read The White Rose Road, which I had left because I al-

[*Page 2*]

ways want to read Mr. Teaby and Going to Shrewsbury whenever I am in eyeshot of these. But The W. R. R. is beautiful, and it made the tears come to my eyes out of the everlasting ache in my heart for all that is poor, and fair and pitiful.

You have a precious gift, and you must know it, and can be none the worse for your knowledge. We all have a tender pleasure in your work,

[*Page 3*]

which there is no other name for but love. I think no one has shown finer art in a way, than you, and that something which is so much better than art, besides. Your voice is like a thrush's in the din of all the literary noises that stun us so.

I hope your mother is better, and that we shall see you before long in Boston. Give my love to your nephew,* and our united affection to all your house.

Yours sincerely,

W. D. Howells.*

Notes

your book: Howells refers to stories in *Strangers & Wayfarers* (1890).

Howells wrote about this book in his Editor's Study column in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 82 (April 1891) p. 804-5.

Howells: Page 4 has a note, perhaps in Jewett's hand, reading "To be kept."

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. 16 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1875-1908. Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (105). A transcription appeared in *Life in Letters of William Dean Howells*, v. 2, edited by Mildred Howells. New York: Doubleday, 1928. New transcription and notes.

Louisa Loring Dresel to Sarah Orne Jewett

328 Beacon St.

Feb. 5th. [*1891*]*

Dear S. O. J.,

It seems as if I had a million things to tell you, but do not be afraid. I am not going to do it! But I am going to say, how do you do today? And thank you very very much for a letter some time ago, a quick answer to my last note! I have had news of you once or twice since by way of Mrs. Fields,* who delighted me one day by reading me a piece of a letter from you about your coasting: "Just like the other boys"!* It must have been a lovely coast, & I envy you the experience!

[*Page 2*]

What have you been doing since? Anything as exciting? —

I shall try to see Mrs Fields on Saturday, & shall hear of you then. I have filched a nice photograph (taken at Mrs. Howe's place at Manchester*) from Ellis,* but shall ask Mrs Fields first whether you are to be in town on a flying visit reasonably soon, & if you are, I will leave it with ^her for^ you. — Otherwise you shall have it by mail — I have been doing a little painting on my own hook, & have painted a sketch from a Pepperell sketch* which I wish you could see, because I think it really says a little of what I tried to put into it — Mrs Whitman* thinks it is better than the original sketch. — I have had it "simmering" on an easel in my room for quite a time, & was much astonished myself

[*Page 3*]

that it turned out anything in the end!

I have not been able to begin in earnest, at Ritter's,* & can't tell whether I ever shall get so far. [*Unrecognized mark*] I have had some more throats & things, and I thought it was a good plan to see Dr. Helen Morton.* She is giving me iron & makes me eat 6 meals a day! She also inserts mild hints about "going away", to which however I turn a deaf ear.

Ellis is off to New York, on a spree, to New York with a dearest friend & chum, for four days & he has been working so hard, good boy, & I am glad he can have this little outing.

Have you read "The Light that Failed"* & how do you feel about it? —

Do you realize how very real & very good & true much of the "Artist talk" is? — I should like to know what you think of this story — Mrs. Whitman*

[*Page 4*]

was here Tuesday & I gave it to her to read.

I have had good news from Marianne B.* lately which has been very cheering.

We are expecting Papa's little singer, Elizabeth Cronyn* to stay with us, but have been expecting her since [Jan. 1st *?*] & begin to think she will not come at all! — Later, towards spring, a whole raft of German-Mexicans & German-Californian relations are going to descend upon us, did I tell you? —

Now I am not going to write about anything else, because, perhaps, you don't happen just this minute to feel like reading about my unimportant & rather uninteresting concerns. This letter is more to say that I think of you always & send you much love.

Yours, Loulie.

[*Page 5*]

This paper has to wear
an under-jacket inside
its outside-coat. It is a humbug!

Now I am going to my martyrdom,
i.e. the dentist's, — & will
mail this on the way.

Feb 5th 1891 —

Notes

1891: The date that Dresel writes at the very end of the manuscript is unclear in the fourth digit. The light mark looks more like a 0 or 2 than a 1, though it could be a 1. I have chosen 1891 however, because Kipling's *The Light that Failed* first appeared in its entirety in the January 1891 issue of *Lippincott's Magazine*. It is possible, of course, that Dresel read the novel the following year or even later, so 1891 remains a speculative date.

Mrs. Fields: Key to Correspondents.

boys: See Jewett to Annie Adams Fields of 21 January 1891.

Ellis: Dresel's younger brother.

Mrs. Howe's place: Alice Greenwood Howe. Key to Correspondents.

Pepperell sketch: If Dresel's painting is from her own sketch, then it may have been made in Pepperell, MA north of Boston, near the New Hampshire border. Otherwise, Dresel's reference remains unknown.

Mrs. Whitman: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

Ritter's: According to the Vose Gallery, landscape painter and lithographer, Louis Ritter (1854-1892) "was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and received his early training at the McMicken School of Design between 1873 and 1874. He later traveled to Munich to paint with the charismatic artist Frank Duveneck. Ritter followed Duveneck to Florence and Venice, but by 1883, perhaps following friends Theodore Wendel and Charles Mills, Ritter came to Boston and took a studio at 12 West Street. He began to teach in Boston and at Wellesley College, while painting landscapes along the north shore." Possibly his grave.

Dr. Helen Morton: Dr. Helen Morton (1834-1916) had offices successively on Marlboro, Boylston, and Chestnut streets in Boston. Richard Cary says that Jewett once characterized her as "touchy {touching?} in her doctorly heart and more devoted in her private capacity as a friend."

"The Light that Failed"... "Artists talk": *The Light that Failed* (1891) was British author Rudyard Kipling's (1865-1936) first novel. It tells the story of Dick Heldar, a painter who goes blind.

Marianne B.: Marianne Brockhaus. Key to Correspondents.

Elizabeth Cronyn: Elizabeth A. Cronyn (1852-1921?), the daughter of Dr. John Cronyn (1827-1898), a founder of the Medical Department of Niagara University. In addition to her music degree from D'Youville College in Buffalo, NY, she studied with Otto Dresel, Louisa's father, in Dresden, Germany.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Francis Hopkinson Smith to Sarah Orne Jewett

150. E. 34"

Feb. 6. [*1891*]*

My dear Miss Jewett and my good friend who sends me such a delightful letter!

Next to the pleasure of writing a story like the Colonel* — and it has been an exquisite pleasure — is the delight of receiving such letters as yours. Especially yours for you know, which is everything and you tell me so cheerfully and heartily which is best of all —

[*Page 2*]

I know however that there are many little touches which a more skillful pen could have refined and others which your own method would have omitted.

Perhaps when I see you in March you will prove yourself once more my friend* by marking them with that tell-tale ^blue^ pencil, so that they

can appear in book form in better shape or not at all.

[*Page 3*]

I have promised to give some rambling talks in March about the 20th {—} then I shall see you.

With my kindest regards to Mrs [Field* *so spelled*] and my best thanks to you

Faithfully your friend

F. Hopkinson Smith

I have been in Washington for a week — Never delay.

Notes

1891: This is Smith's reply to Jewett's letter of 1 February 1891.

Colonel: *Colonel Carter of Cartersville* (1891) is a short humorous novel in which a Virginia gentleman, Colonel Carter, finds himself stranded in New York with no money. Jewett read the story as a serial in *Century Magazine* November 1890 - April 1891.

friend: Smith's handwriting makes it difficult to determine whether the ends of some words are flourishes or "s." I have guessed about this and several other examples.

Field: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Before 13 February 1891*]*

Dearest Pin: Mrs [Anthony *?*]* was here this afternoon very sorry {not} to see you — I am engaged Friday 13th at 3 — and again in the eveg at Lily Fairchilds* to meet the Kendals* — I do not feel at liberty to decline Lily's invitation again so I think I must give up Cora's* but I will see Mrs Anthony before she leaves — Will you write Cora & give her my love and say you could not tell me until now because I met her today in the street car.

[*Page 2*]

I have not heard a word yet from S.W.* She is very busy — I see that Mrs Cleveland* is coming to town next week so added to all else she is probably planning to entertain her.

I am so glad "Little Peg"* is off — what divine weather — to [ship *?*] anything! Mrs. R. T. Cooke and the dear Horsfords* were here today and poor dear papa left me some charity money just now when I needed it so very much — I ought to try to please that dear man sometimes! your own A.F.

Notes

1891: In 1891, Friday 13 occurred in February and March and November. If the notes below on the Kendals and "Little Peg" are correct, then it is likely this letter was composed in February.

Mrs. Anthony: This person has not yet been identified. Among Annie Fields's acquaintance was Mary Aurelia Walker Anthony (1830-1913), a singer, the wife of artist Andrew Varick Stout Anthony (1835-1906).

Fairchild's: See Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents.

Kendals: Whitman probably refers to the Kendals acting company, headed by Dame Madge Kendal (1848-1935). In 1891, the company performed more than once in Boston, including in January and February.

Cora's: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

S.W: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

Cleveland: Fields and Jewett were acquainted with the family of President Grover Cleveland (1837-1908), who married Frances Folsom in 1886, while he was serving his first term (1885-1889).

"Little Peg": Jewett's "Peg's Little Chair" appeared in *Wide Awake* in August 1891.

Cooke: American author and poet, Rose Terry Cooke (1827-1892)..

Horsfords: The family of Eben Horsford, who often gave Fields cash donations in support of the Associated Charities of Boston. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence, 100 letters from Annie Adams Fields, bMS Am 1743.1 Box 1, Item 33.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Newburyport

Feb. 17 1891*

My Dear friend

I hope this [mild *?*] February has been favorable to thee, and that health is restored, but, as I have not heard from thee for some time, it must be that thee have found it necessary to shut up thy house and flit Southward. If so I trust thee have not gone alone, though our dear Sarah* is [confined *?*] at South Berwick. For myself, I have thus far escaped any severe cold this winter, and on the whole I am quite as comfortable as in last winter, which, perhaps, is

[*Page 2*]

not saying much, as my comfort comes mainly from abstinence in reading and [*possibly significant marks*] writing. I eschew the Sunday newspaper, and barely glance at the others, [taking *?*] it for granted that the world will get on whether I watch it or not.* Of course I am gratified by Cleveland's manly letter on the silver craze* and by Blaine's reciprocity policy.* I wish something could be done to check the dreadful evil of intemperance which fills our prisons, degrades and tortures womanhood, and poisons the blood of childhood, and makes the rum seller the master of our politics, swaying politicians at his will. Against its evil effects, [*unrecognized word* industrial *?*] and [associated *?*] Charities* [struggle *corrected*] bravely, but in vain.

[*Page 3*]

My old friends and correspondents are rapidly passing away. I had just recd a letter from Dean Plumptre* of Bath & Wells, when the papers announced his death. He was one of the most learned of the English Church, [and *?*] very broad and liberal. He and his wife — a sister of Dr. Maurice visited me at Oak Knoll some years ago.

The papers of the English Society of P. Research* continue to be very interesting{.} It seems to me they are working in the right direction, and most important results may be expected. I see that Mr Savage* and several other clergymen

[*Page 4*]

in [Boston *?*] & [*unrecognized word*] here have undertaken to investigate for themselves the phenomena of [Spiritualism *?*]. I doubt however, that they will improve upon the methods of the English scientists.

Good [kind *?*], dear friend! Thy friendship is a blessing for which I am daily [devotedly *?*] thankful. Ever affectionately and gratefully thine,

John G Whittier

Notes

1891: Penciled at the top center of page 1: "2".

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

or not: In the left margin next to this sentence appears a penciled "x."

silver craze: American Democratic Party politician Grover Cleveland served as U. S. President 1885-1889 and 1893-1897. His second presidency came about in part because of his leadership in opposition to his party's call for the free coinage of silver, an expansionary monetary policy. He published an open public letter on the Silver Question in February of 1891.

reciprocity policy: American Republican politician James G. Blaine (1830-1893) was U.S. Secretary of State 1889-1892. In that capacity, he argued for and established a reciprocity policy in foreign trade, allowing duty-free imports from countries that did not tax American exports, giving the executive branch authority to determine when to use reciprocity as a bargaining tool.

Charities: Whittier likely refers to Fields's own work with Associated Charities of Boston.

Dean Plumptre: Church of England clergyman, Edward Hayes Plumptre (1821 - 1 February 1891) served as Dean of Wells Cathedral, 1881-1891. He married Harriet Theodosia, sister of John Frederick Denison Maurice (1805-1872), another prominent scholar and author in the Church of England. The date of the couple's visit to Whittier is not yet known. In the left margin next to this sentence appears a penciled "x."

P. Research: Whittier presumably has been reading the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*.

Mr Savage: Minot Judson Savage (1841-1918) was an American Unitarian clergyman and "psychical researcher," serving the Church of the Unity in Boston (1874-1896). He published

several books on psychic research, including *Psychics: Facts and Theories* (1893).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4862.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Abigail Langdon Alger

South Berwick Maine

[*25 February 1891*]*

Dear Miss Alger

I return these newspaper cuttings with many thanks. I think that your account of the "Chinese Quarter"* is deeply interesting — it makes me wish to go shopping

[*Page 2*]

with you more than ever!

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1891: The year appears to have been penciled in another hand. In the absence of further supporting evidence, this date has been accepted.

Chinese quarter: The last surviving ethnic Chinese "Chinatown" in New England — located in downtown Boston. If Alger published an account of the Chinese quarter, this has not yet been discovered.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Francis Jackson Garrison to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead, underlined text typed in*]

[*Graphic of hand, index finger pointing right*]

All letters, to ensure prompt attention, must be addressed to the Firm.

———————————————————

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO., Publishers.

Boston Office — 4 Park Street

New York Office, — 11 E. 17th St.

Boston Feb. 25, 1891

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Miss Jewett: —

We have your favor of yesterday, and take pleasure in sending you some notices of "Strangers and Wayfarers."

Mr. Osgood* was here yesterday and ordered two hundred and fifty copies of the book. We note your request that we will send him a set of your books, and will forward them, with the exception of "A Marsh Island," which we have already given him.

We also note your request to send the remaining volumes of the Lowell to South Berwick, and remain

Yours very truly

[*Signed by hand*]

Houghton Mifflin & Co.

F. J. G.

Notes

1891: The underlined portions of the letterhead were written in by hand.

Strangers and Wayfarers: Jewett's collection of stories appeared in 1890. Her novel, *A Marsh Island*, was published in 1885.

Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

The typescript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., firm, publishers, Boston. 6 letters; 1891-1904.. (101). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South Berwick Maine

27 February 1891

My dear Friend

When I came home from a short visit to A.F.* in Charley Street I found your new book of poems* waiting for me. I am tempted to keep my thanks until I see you for it is so hard to put into a note all that I wish to say about my pleasure and

[*Page 2*]

gratitude. It seems to me that you have never printed so beautiful a collection before! The poems that I thought I knew best seem newest to me as I look through the book. I think that you must spare yourself, this time, a writer's usual misgivings when he holds a new book in hand and reconsiders the plan of

[*Page 3*]

it ——

I missed you and Lilian* very much, and I am glad to have a firm [hour *corrected*] that you will both be at home when I go to town again, as I mean to, in a fortnight.

With my love and best thanks I am ever your affectionate friend

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

A. F.: Annie Fields (1834-1915). Key to Correspondents.

book of poems: Aldrich published three volumes in 1890 and 1891. These include: *XXXVI lyrics and XII sonnets, selected from Cloth of Gold and Flower and Thorn* and *Wyndham Towers* in 1890, and in 1891, *The Sisters' Tragedy and Other Poems Lyrical and Dramatic.*

Lilian: Lilian Woodman Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117)

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Friday morning

[*27 February 1891*]*

Dear Fuff —

A new foot of snow! which pleases me, it looks so lovely on the trees. . I do wish you had seen the doggie and the ponies. Think of the six ponies small and great going up and down the long steep flight of stairs into the hall twice a day! They were so wiselike and funny. I have got a picture of the dogs that will delight you. I should like

[*Page 2*]

to have taken some pictures myself of them, they looked so different from dogs that dont know how to do anything! I meant to go again but I was busy yesterday ——-

Your dear letter came in the morning and I got a great pleasure out of it, with the estimable place about Manchester and all. And Mr. Lowell's* letter was delightful and I am pleased about A. Warren.* I hope that she will come next

[*Page 3*]

week and I the next — and so to see Bernhardt* if you please Fuffatee! I saw by last evenings paper that the tickets were to be sold at auction and the harder they are going to be to get the more I wish to get there! And we simply must go — to see all the plays I think the season tickets are the best. And Mr. Fairchild* will get them I know.

Georgie Terry and little Elizabeth* are going this morning. We

[*Page 4*]

have had a pleasant visit from them — She says everything that is good about Mabel Quincy{,}* how handsome and bright she is and ^really^ interested in her life at Cavona, it seems so to me at any rate from what I have heard about her.

I was busy yesterday afternoon with a little paper for the Academy paper* here{.} I tried to make some suggestions about the centennial and our hospitality &c. I am sorry that I haven't any nice letters to send you but mine have been rather uninteresting these last few days. I

[*Up the left margin and across the top of page 1*]

believe that Mary* is going to spend Sunday with Miss Johnson and then go to Hattie Dennys* for a few days. Would you mind if she were there with A. Warren? Then if she went to you for a night or two afterward because if you did, ~~they~~ she could take visit another time. But I

[*Up the left margin and across the top of page 2*]

think they would get along beautifully together being deeply versed in horse questions and so forth ! ! You must tell me when you write again. I think that Mary is tired and I [understand *?*] she is starting off.

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

Good by darling, yours most lovingly

Pinny

Notes

27 February 1891: While it is possible this letter was composed a week later, it appears that by 5 March, Jewett and Fields had their tickets for Sarah Bernhardt's performance in Boston during the 2nd week of March 1891. See notes below.

This manuscript contains editorial marks, presumably by Annie Adams Fields as she considered including this letter in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911)

Mr. Lowell's: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

A. Warren: A. Warren is mentioned in a Jewett letter to Mary Rice Jewett of 22 March 1888. This *may* be Alice Amelia Bartlett Warren (1843-1912), who traveled often in Europe and moved in the same social circles as Fields and Jewett, being a friend of Henry James and Ellen Emerson, among other Jewett correspondents. See the introduction to *Little Women Abroad: The Alcott Sisters' Letters from Europe*, 1870-1871 (2008), edited by Daniel Shealy, pp. lxii-lxiii.

Bernhardt: French actor Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923).Richard Cary notes "Sarah Bernhardt, on another triumphal tour of the country with her French company, was scheduled for one week [that of 9 March] at the Tremont in *La Tosca*, *La Dame aux Camélias*, and *Cléopatra*."

Mr. Fairchild: Probably Charles Fairchild. See Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents.

Georgie Terry and little Elizabeth: These people have not yet been identified.

Mabel Quincy: Probably Mabel Quincy Davis (1863-1958). daughter of American author Josiah Phillips Quincy (1829-1910). However, she married Walter Gould Davis in 1889. Find a Grave.

Academy paper: Jewett's essay, "The Centennial Celebration," appeared in *The Berwick Scholar* 4 (March 1891); Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Johnson ... Hattie Dennys: American educator Annie Elizabeth Johnson (1826-1894) was an organizer of Mary Rice Jewett's 1889 tour of Europe, which included Mary Harriet Denny. See Augusta Maria Denny Tyler in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter appears in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255). Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Annie Adams Fields to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

148 Charles St. Boston

Feb^{y} 27th 1891

My dear friend:

I do not know where you are, you and your gold=haired one, but I wish to thank you for your book* with its wine=red cover and conqueror's wreath!

What a jar of delights you have sent me — not a jar of honey alone, but something far, far better. I have eaten it all up, and yet there it is again inviting me to another feast.

Affectionately your

Annie Fields.

Notes

book: Probably, Aldrich has given Fields a copy of his most recent poetry collection, *The Sisters' Tragedy with Other Poems, Lyrical and Dramatic*. (Boston & New York: Houghton, Mifflin, 1891). While on-line images of this book do not show a wine-red cover, there is a wreath around the title. Cover colors can vary from one printing to the next.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., to Sarah Orne Jewett

296 Beacon St.

Feb. 27th

[1891]*

My dear Miss Jewett,

I am sorry that I cannot avail myself of the kind invitation you send me. I have just had to decline Mrs Robert T. Paines* invitation for the same evening and for the same reason which keeps me at home at that time.

Always truly yours

O. W. Holmes.

Let me not forget to thank dear Mrs. Fields* for her kind remembrance.

Notes

1891: This date appears in another hand at the top of the page. Its rationale is not known, but it is the only clue regarding the date of this letter, other than the fact that Holmes died in 1894.

Mrs Robert T. Paines: Holmes refers to Lydia Williams Lyman (1837-1897), spouse of Robert Treat Paine (1835-1910), Boston lawyer, philanthropist and social reformer..

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894. 2 letters; 1883-[1891]. (98). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick Maine*
28 February
[*1891*]*

Dear Mr. Scudder

I think that you are right about using the name of a state. I can change Iowa to Wi-owa or Kan-sota and I will not forget it when I see the proofs.

Yours truly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Maine: This word may be in another hand.

1891: Richard Cary assigned this date, which corresponds to the year of the publication of Jewett's May 1891 *Atlantic* story, "A Native of Winby." The final choice for renaming "Iowa" in that story was "Kansota."

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mabel Lowell Burnett

South Berwick Maine

2nd March 1891

My dear Mabel

Where can I send my negatives to be printed in Boston? The young man who is in that business here is not proficient and [mounts *corrected*] the photographs most skewy which is indeed hard to bear — I crave advice in this emergency.

It has been preying on my mind that I did not say goodbye

[*Page 2*]

to dear little Lois* the other day. I was busy talking with you and there she stood and must have felt quite overlooked and forgotten by an old friend! I shall say 'how do you do' with double affection when I see Lois again!

I hope to get to town again next week — we are very cheerful at home just now, because my mother seems wonderfully better. She

[*Page 3*]

has been down stairs several times, and appears to be gaining steadily. I have never dared to think before that she was really better — I have been busy writing since I came back. I hope that you will please to like A Native of Winby* which is to be (I believe) in the May Atlantic. I shall look for the proofs by every mail, but perhaps I shall no longer

[*Page 4*]

take pleasure in it, as I confess to doing while it was in manuscript!

Goodbye dear Mabel! I am so glad to hear that your father is better. I dare say that he will go to Philadelphia after all! —

Yours most affectionately

S. O. J.

(Or Serrer, as one sometimes calls it in The District —)*

Notes

Lois: Burnett's daughter, Lois Burnett Rantoul (1881-1961). Find a Grave.

A Native of Winby: Jewett's story did indeed appear in *Atlantic Monthly* in May 1891.

District: Presumably, Jewett refers to the district of rural Maine, where she may hear her name so pronounced.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. A.L.s. (S.O.J.) to [Mabel Lowell Burnett]; South Berwick, 2 Mar 1891., 1891. Box: 2, MS Am 1484, (189). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writers Collection, Burton Trafton Collection, Box 2, folder 86.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mark A. deWolfe Howe

South Berwick, Maine

3rd of March, 1891

To the Editors of the Youth's Companion

Gentlemen:

I thank you for your very kind and cordial note and for the [Messrs. *corrected*] Perry Mason Company's cheque received this morning.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Perry Mason Company: The Perry Mason Company was the owner of the *Youth's Companion* magazine, founded in 1827.

Encyclopedia.com indicates that in 1857 Daniel Sharp Ford (1822-1899) became part owner of *The Youth's Companion.* His obituary (New York *Times* 24 December 1899) summarizes his career as an ambitious but modest editor and publisher of religious newspapers, mainly the *Companion*. The *Times* also recounts his invention of the name Perry Mason for his publishing firm, the name by which he was known to its readers. His Find a Grave Memorial includes an extended biographical sketch.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Mark Antony De Wolfe Howe additional papers, 1880-1959. MS Am 1524 (774). Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 16 letters from; 1891-1903. The manuscript has suffered what appears to be water damage, obscuring the script at several points.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Louisa Dresel

South Berwick, Maine

4 March 1891

My dear Loulie

I hear of your flitting Southward and I am sending you a line to assure you of my good wishes, but also my vain regrets that you cant go this time to my beloved and beautiful St. Augustine! You will find a good part of your way very monotonous, but it is only after one comes back from a strange country that one can fully take ^the^ strangeness of it in. And our

[*Page 2*]

America is so different from Europe — You see everything on a larger scale, that makes England, for instance, a country in miniature. The immensity of America strikes me more and more as I grow older — the Great South — the Great West with their unlimited possibilities waiting to be moulded and shaped and decorated by the hand of man and turned into

such crammed and perfectly developed sections of the globe as any across the sea — But most of us feel more at home with a tamed and civilized part

[*Page 3*]

of the world — it is still a little dreary to me to hurry all day across a piece of Southern Country that looks nearly as much alike as if the cars stood still!

I am coming back to town next week for some days and I shall miss seeing you. I have been looking forward with great pleasure to seeing Bernhardt* and I do hope that Mrs. Fields* will be well enough to go too — My dear mother has been ever so much better

[*Page 4*]

for a week or more which is a great joy, you can believe.

I am sending you a little book which may be old to you but I wished you to have a copy that I gave you. I have for years made it my chief counsellor and consoler and inspirer in the way of a book. My friend Ellen Mason* gave me a copy of Fénélon — why it must be twenty years ago and it is the religious book of my life — so ready for everyday

[*Page 5*]

need and so modern and completely unaffected and unsuperstitious it seems to me. Of course there is only a brief selection in this edition* but it was all I could get hold of, and I have been keeping it some time to send to you when I was next writing.* I do hope that you [find *corrected*] the kind and wise 'Bishop of Cambray' as helpful a friend as I have found him —

Do give my love to Miss

[*Page 6*]

Sarah Clarke!* It was a great pleasure to me to meet her last year, and a real inspiration. I can imagine what a pleasure it will be to her to have you and Mrs. Dresel come down to her neighborhood, and I hear that Mrs. King* is going too, which will be so dear for [*deletion*] all of you. I shall hope to hear from you! and if you stay late enough you must

[*Page 7*]

stop in the Natural Bridge* regions as you come North.

There is such a great blowing snowstorm today as if winter were beginning all over again.

I quite envy you the miracle it always seems to those who go far South quickly out of our Northern winter. I never shall forget what a miracle it seemed to me the first time I did it! You

[*Page 8*]

feel as if you had been let out of jail & as if it must be impossible to play out of doors!

I must say good bye with much love and many good wishes to you and 'Mamma{.}'

Yours affectionately

S. O. J.

Notes

Bernhardt: French actor Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923). Richard Cary notes that her French touring company performed for a week at the Tremont Theater in Boston.

Mason: Ellen Frances Mason. Key to Correspondents.

Fénélon: François de Salignac Fénélon (1651-1715). Cary notes that Jewett gave copies of *Selections from Fénélon* (Boston, 1890) to several friends.

writing: This word is challenging to transcribe. Richard Cary believed it to be "visiting."

Miss Sarah Clarke: Sarah Freeman Clarke (1808-1896), a step grand-daughter of James Freeman Clarke, after whom she was named. Born in Massachusetts, she became a painter, studying and working in Italy. In 1879, she returned from Italy and eventually located in Marietta, GA, where she took up the cause of founding a local library, which opened in 1893. See *Georgia's Remarkable Women: Daughters,Wives, Sisters, and Mothers Who Shaped History* by Sara Hines Martin, 2015, pp. 19-32.

Mrs. King: Caroline Howard King. Key to Correspondents.

Natural Bridge: A limestone arch in Rockbridge County, western Virginia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in "Jewett to Dresel: 33 Letters," *Colby Library Quarterly* 7:1 (March

1975), 13-49. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday evening

[*5 March 1891*]

Dear Fuff

(Please put it down on your order book that I am going to Lily Fairchild's* to luncheon on [*deleted word*] Thursday the 12th at half past [twelve *corrected*] o'clock. Perhaps you are going too) ??

[*Double underlined unrecognized word*] who dont speak a word about the Bernhardt tickets* are now tweaked [by *corrected*] by both ears ^(if found)^ — I hope it is a Cleopatra* night or else

[*Page 2*]

Camille. If it isn't Cleopatra I am going to pawn my best clothes and get some ^tickets^ by hook or by crook. I do wish very much to see the Cleopatra. (I think of you and Mary* sitting by the fire tonight, and I suppose it is getting near to bedtime.) Yes it is quite magnificent about the copyright bill* and I like to have my country

[*Page 3*]

honest at least about the Spoliation Claims. I told Mother yesterday that she must buy a piece of plate and have it marked French Spoliation Claims 1891, and have it handed down.*

You never saw such a lot of snow in your town-y life as is now piled up in this single hamlet! It is really a huge lot and so drifted and tumbled about and every little while today the northwest wind would blow and the air would be full

[*Page 4*]

for a while. Jocky* seems to think it is a very hard winter.

How topping good about the looms! You never said how much you were going to get!

I wish you would send me the Post* of yesterday and today if it is not too much trouble. Good night dear Fuff. I hope to get along early in the week but I dont want to hurry Mary in her works and ways.*

I hope Mary is interested in Crabby* — I didn't think to ask her personally! Crabby would be [engulphed *so spelled*] now in the snow if he were a country dog.

Good by with

dear love from Pinny

Notes

5 March 1891: Fields penciled 1891 in the upper right of page 1. This view is supported by the notes below. Thursday 5 March is the week before the Bernhardt performances in Boston

Most parenthesis marks in the letter also were penciled by Fields.

Lily Fairchild's: See Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents.

Bernhardt tickets: French actor Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923). Her touring company performed in Boston in March 1891: *La Tosca*, *La Dame aux Camélias*, and *Cléopatra*.

Wikipedia says: "*La Tosca* is a five-act drama by the 19th-century French playwright Victorien Sardou. It was first performed on 24 November 1887 at the Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Martin in Paris, with Sarah Bernhardt in the title role." It is the basis for the libretto of Giacomo Puccini's Italian opera, *Tosca*.

Sardou (1831-1908) also wrote *Cléopatra* (1890).

La Dame aux Camélias (1848, *The Lady with the Camellias*, usually known in English as *Camille*) is a novel by Alexandre Dumas fils and then adapted by Dumas for the stage (1852). It was the basis for Giuseppe Verdi's 1853 opera, *La Traviata*."

Cleopatra: The name "Cleopatra" has been corrected in pencil, probably by Fields.

the copyright bill: In March 1891, the United States Congress passed copyright legislation that extended protection to periodicals.

French Spoliation Claims, 1891: These are the French Spoliation Claims arising from the French Revolution, during which France blockaded England and caused losses to American shipping in 1793-1798. In an agreement, the Convention of 1800, the United States effected an exchange of favors by which the U.S. Government took over responsibility for the claims. After much discussion and delay, the government agreed to a settlement of these claims that involved paying a portion of them over the period between 1885 and 1925. The first Congressional act to authorize payment of these claims passed in March 1891.

Jocky: A Jewett dog, sometimes called Jock.

Post: Presumably the newspaper, the Boston *Post*.

Mary ... works and ways: This Mary, presumably, is a Fields employee.

"Works and ways" is a biblical-sounding phrase Jewett often used. It echoes some passages in the King James Bible -- Psalms 145:17, Daniel 4:37, and Revelations 15:3 -- where it usually suggests that while God's ways are mysterious, they also are to be accepted humbly by humanity.

Crabby: There has been some confusion about the identity of this dog. F. O. Matthiessen in *Sarah Orne Jewett* (1909) identifies Crabby as one of Jewett's dogs, and he describes her walking with Crabby, when he already is an elderly dog, before her father's death (20 September 1878). If Matthiessen's memory is correct, then that Crabby was not the "Crabby Fields" who appears in Jewett letters of the 1890s; the latest currently collected shows him accompanying Fields and Jewett during their summer stay in Martinsville, ME. See Louise Imogen Guiney to Fields of 25 July 1894. An undated letter records his death (Jewett to Fields of summer after 1895).

Pinny: The final three lines of the letter are marked with a large end parenthesis, penciled by Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields transcription

This passage appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 55.

Yes, it is quite magnificent about the copyright bill, and I like to have my country honest at last about the Spoliation Claims. I told Mother yesterday that she must buy a piece of plate and have it marked French Spoliation Claims, 1891, and have it handed down.

You never saw such a lot of snow in your towny life as is now piled up in this single hamlet. It is really a huge lot, and so drifted and tumbled about, and every little while to-day the northwest wind would blow, and the air would be full for awhile. Jocky seems to think it is a very hard winter.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Newburyport

Mar. 6, —— 1891*

Dear Annie Fields

I am so sorry that the infernal grip [*possibly significant marks*] still persists in troubling thee. If there is any truth in the adage that "Misery loves company" I wish I could be with thee, and, as the song has it, we would be "all unhappy together."*

Two weeks ago my old enemy [if *intending* of] last winter attacked me, and still sticks to me. I am hoarse as a raven; my head seems as if I had got somebody else on my shoulders with lead instead of brains. Every now and then the hot shuttle of [neralgia *for* neuralgia] shoots from one temple

[*Page 2*]

to another back & forth. My cousins here have both united with me in a [fellowship *?*] of suffering. I think we are all rather mending slowly. I am grieved to hear of Lowell's* illness. He is too much of a democrat to enjoy [this *?*] fashionable distemper. I wonder if my old friend R. H. Dana* when living would not have almost welcomed it as an aristocratic and respectable malady. "So English you know!"* He was one of the bravest and best of men, but he had a pardonable weakness in the matter of birth & society. Did I ever tell thee how very

[*Page 3*]

charming, sweet, & tender I feel thy little poem to be: "On revisiting a green nook.".* It [blends *corrected*] so beautifully the two worlds, the seen and the unseen. Last night lying awake I repeated ~~them~~ ^it^ to myself, over and over.

"The light slips down from other skies
And mingles with the blue of this;
I hear another music through
The sparrow's bliss."

We are very deep in snow here. Previous to this last storm we had a heavy body of snow on the ground, and now there are 14 inches more, and it looks like the old story of "six weeks sleighing in March!"* I am longing for a sight of the Earth once more. Hoping that thee are

getting over thy long illness, I am ever thy grateful friend

John G Whittier

[*Page 4*]

Cousin Gertrude* sends her love, and hopes Sarah Jewett is with thee.

Notes

1891: Penciled at the top center of page 1: "4".

"all unhappy together": "Let us All be Unhappy Together," was a popular humorous song by British author, composer, and performer, Charles Dibdin (1745-1814).

After mentioning this song, Whittier changes from black to blue ink.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents. In notes for his transcription, John B. Pickard writes: "Lowell had a severe attack of gout in February and by the summer of 1891 was dying of cancer. He died on August 12, 1891."

R. H. Dana: American author, lawyer and politician from Massachusetts, Richard Henry Dana Jr. (1815-1882). He may be best remembered for his memoir, *Two Years Before the Mast* (1840).

you know: A penciled "x" appears in the left margin next to this sentence.

green nook.".: Fields's poem of this title first appeared in *Scribner's* for October 1890. It was collected in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). Why Whittier placed two periods here is not clear.

"six weeks sleighing in March!": The origin of this adage about poor weather in March is not known.

Cousin Gertrude: See Whittier in Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents above.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4860. This letter has been transcribed previously by Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragments

Sunday evening, *Autumn*. [March 1891]*

I hope that you have had a good day. I have been to church myself for a wonder, since from one reason or another I have not been preached at for some months! This afternoon, after the communion service, I had a great pleasure in seeing the very old church silver which is not often used, and some time I wish to show it to you. One exquisite old flagon is marked 1674, and the cups are such beautiful shapes. They keep it packed away in the bank, — very properly, — and usually use a new set bought thirty or forty years ago. I dare say that some of the old came from England, — it is really so interesting with all the givers' names and inscriptions put on in such quaint pretty lettering.

Yes, it is quite magnificent about the copyright bill,* and I like to have my country honest at last about the Spoliation Claims.* I told Mother yesterday that she must buy a piece of plate and have it marked French Spoliation Claims, 1891, and have it handed down.

You never saw such a lot of snow in your towny life as is now piled up in this single hamlet. It is really a huge lot, and so drifted and tumbled about, and every little while to-day the northwest wind would blow, and the air would be full for awhile. Jocky* seems to think it is a very hard winter.

Notes

March 1891: This is a composite of at least two letters. Paragraphs 2 and 3 are almost certainly from March 1891. The origin and actual date of the first paragraph remains as yet unknown. Fields included a final paragraph in her transcription that was part of another letter fragment; see Jewett to Fields of 21 December 1890.

the copyright bill: In March 1891, The United States Congress passed copyright legislation that extended protection to periodicals.

French Spoliation Claims, 1891: These are the French Spoliation Claims arising from the French Revolution, during which France blockaded England and caused losses to American shipping in 1793-1798. In an agreement, the Convention of 1800, the United States effected an exchange of favors by which the U.S. Government took over responsibility for the claims. After much discussion and delay, the government agreed to a settlement of these claims that involved paying a portion of them over the period between 1885 and 1925. The first Congressional act to authorize payment of these claims passed in March 1891.

Jocky: this unidentified "personage" is a Jewett dog, sometimes called Jock.

These fragments appear in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 55.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Wednesday morning

[*March 1891*]*

Dearest Fuff.

Didn't we have a beautiful time? I love to think about it dearly! — and to look forward already to seeing you again. The car was hot and stuffy and though fresh air got in at intervals I read fast all the way to Portsmouth and began to have a headache [*deleted word ?*] at that point which

[*Page 2*]

lasted me until I went to bed! [*Green penciled marks by Fields*] But I think The Cigarette makes a charming story. It seems like the play work of a really great writer, a story thrown off in the leisure moments of somebody of great ability. I believe that Crawford* has great ability myself — as you have always said — "the story-teller's gift{.}"

(I forgot to give Mr. Millet*

[*Page 3*]

his ticket to the St. Botolph* but I am sending it back this morning. It will do you to make a pair of Psychical incidents when I tell you that Mr. Bok* had written Mr. Millet about seeing him for something this week by the same mail that brought my letter to him! But he seemed pleased by the suggestion.)

(I* found Mother about the same but I think there are signs of her not keeping

[*Page 4*]

quite so well as she has been). I am so glad for every reason that I could get to you this time — And when I read the poor little letter I felt gladder than before. Dear Fuffy I feel sure that being so ill makes everything harder to bear and now you are better life will be a good deal easier — though never easy for us who are in the middle of its waves. The best we can say to one another is Courage and Patience! but first of all Love and Hope! and that we do have in both our hearts — and if it were

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

only to be in the world for the sake of the joy it is to have one another I should think it worth while! — to have you and to love you is so dear to me and indeed life is very full of satisfactions for both of us & we must forget the hard things in the brighter ones. There [is *?*] more snow than

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margins of pages 2 and 3*]

ever here! such a great pile! I must not forget to tell you how much Mother liked the wine [jelly *?*] — it was a great pleasure and she ate as much of it as she really ought! right [*top margin p. 3*] off !! With dear love your own Pinny.

Notes

March 1891: This date is based mainly upon Jewett's report that she is reading a Francis Marion Crawford novel published late the previous year and her referring to the annual exhibition of the St. Botolph Club. See notes below.

Fields has penciled various marks in green in this letter. At the beginning, she appears to have placed and then deleted several parenthesis marks. Most parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled in green by Fields.

Crawford: Francis Marion Crawford (1854-1909) was a prolific American fiction writer, author of *A Cigarette-Maker's Romance* (1890).

Mr. Millet: Josiah Byram Millet. Key to Correspondents.

St. Botolph: The St. Botolph Club for gentlemen included in its membership the business and artistic elite of Boston. Among its activities were annual art exhibitions. In 1891, there was an exhibition of watercolors and pastels by the recently deceased Dennis Miller Bunker (1861-1890) that ran from 25 March to 15 April.

Mr. Bok: Edward William Bok, editor of *Ladies' Home Journal*. Key to Correspondents.

(I: Though penciled by Fields this parenthesis mark is in black rather than green.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-

1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Celia Laighton Thaxter to Mary Rice Jewett

47. State St. Ports. N.H.

Mch 22nd (91

My dear Mary:

Your sister Carrie* wanted a larger picture of Sarah & I have had this one for a week or two since Karl finished it, uncertain whether to send it or no, but your little cousin was here yesterday & saw it & was so enthusiastic about it, that I have concluded to submit it for your sister's inspection, so send it along to you. Your cousin said, "do send it," she liked it so much{.}

[*Page 2*]

Now, it is only "submitted," you know, & if your sister isn't quite & entirely satisfied with it, just do it up, please, & send it back to us — If she does want it, Karl has six dollars for this size & fifty cts extra for packing it — But do let us have it back for our "portrait gallery," if you dont feel very pleased with it!

With best good wishes & love to you all

Affly—

C. Thaxter.

Notes

Carrie ... Sarah ... Karl: Carrie Jewett Eastman and Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents. For Karl Thaxter, see Celia Thaxter in Key to Correspondents. The "little cousin" has not yet been identified.

Karl Thaxter had invented a complex photograph enlarger, hoping in vain to make it commercially viable.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 8, Item 377, IV. Letters to Mary Rice Jewett.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

47. State St. Ports. N.H

Mch 22nd (91 —

My dear Annie:

How fast the days have flown since your letter came, & I meant to have answered it at once! I am getting ready slowly to be off — It is always "a job"! Though I try to carry to & fro as little/as possible. — How heavenly are the reluctant footsteps of the spring! All the morning I am out of doors & my brother & I stop the horse & listen if we hear a bird sing & rejoice in every note. Song sparrows & robins & blue birds sing & the lovely vesper sparrows twitter sweetly, & the [bare *or* bass *or* base *?*] chickadees we have heard all winter. Such troops ^of^ busy robins in the fields! I wish the Hylas & frogs would begin before we go.

I feel a little as if I took my life in my hands, going out so far from the Dr, remembering my terrible experience of last spring — But I

[*Page 2*]

am really better & trust I shall "pull through" this spring without an attack of my [enemy *corrected*] —

I am very sad over the loss of my dear good friend Mary Folsom* in Cambridge. She was at the Shoals early last summer & had such a happy time & she was coming again this year & looking forward to it with such delight! And she has just died. Her case was curious & most obscure, the Drs could not decide [what *corrected*] ailed her but she suffered in a way very similar to my way — intense pain that only morphine would touch. Then she was never free of it except under morphine, could not get rid of it at all, & so died, poor child, after suffering a thousand deaths. She was ill six weeks.

I see Lawrence Barrett* has gone. He will be missed. Dear Annie I am sorry you cannot come down{.} Will you not later, come to the Shoals? Ah, do, dear Annie, if you can! My dearest love to Pinny* if she is with you —

Ever & ever yours most lovingly

C

Did you know poor Esther Albee* is in the Insane Asylum again? I do so pity her father{.}

Notes

Mary Folsom: George McKean Folsom (1837-1882) was a Universalist pastor in Dedham, MA, a friend of Thaxter's husband, Levi Thaxter. Folsom's sister was Mary Elizabeth McKean Folsom (1833 - 15 March 1891). See also Wikipedia.

Lawrence Barrett: Barrett (1838 - 20 March 1891) was a popular American stage actor,

appearing in a variety of productions, including Shakespeare.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Esther Albee: Probably this is Esther Albee (1866-1904), daughter of a family friend, John Albee (1833-1915) of Bellingham, MA. See Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Wall*, p. 11.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 6 (250-269).

Patty Hale* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston. 83 Pinckney St

14 April '91

What a "Will o the wisp" is my dear Miss Jewett! Just as soon as she hears my pen scratching, away she darts!

Doubtless you are right in deciding to attempt but one thing at a time, and the general good ought to come first.

Very good teachers we had when I was there and merry times too. I remember how much surprised and

[*Page 2*]

horrified a young teacher just from a Boston school was, because when she announced Recess — we all rushed out of the back windows by means of boards placed ready for that purpose, instead of using commonplace doors. Then my seat was next the partition wall dividing from the boys room — and any studies were very much interrupted by a gimlet through to my seat & I was first the recipient & afterward the distributor of many & various notes rolled up like lamp lighters & [popped *?*] through the wall.

[*Page 3*]

Country life was then new to me and I loved it. I know where the yellow violets grow & the first wild ripe strawberries come — & as for the early visits of the Indian basket makers & their tents by the river, these were to me an unceasing delight.

We wrote Shakespeare from dictation — were well drilled in Euclid{,} French & Latin [letters *?*], to say nothing of English Literature. It <u>was</u> good — it must be so again — By all means use my little gift for the hospitable part of the celebration.* I most [cordially *?*] hope that it will be a great success.

I hope that your mother still improves and that your sister as well is enjoying these few warm days — they have made the grass green on the common* and brought out the boys & balls so thickly that we — (Misses Whitney{,} Manning* & I) had to go around a long way in coming from the gymnasium this P.M. to save our <u>bonnets</u> and their contents —

Hoping to see you soon, with love & kind remembrances, cordially yours —

(now that you know what I really am)* Patty Hale

[*Down the left margin of page 3*]

I had good opportunity yesterday to tell my companions that I saw S O J go over one of our gates once very handsomely.

Notes

Patty Hale: The identity of this person is not known. She seems to know Jewett well, and she counts Jewett correspondent Anne Whitney among her intimate friends. This would suggest that she is American painter Ellen Day Hale (1855-1940), daughter of Edward Everett Hale (Key to Correspondents), but I have found no record that she called herself "Patty" or that she attended the Berwick Academy. *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine: July First, 1891* lists students of the academy, none of whom is named Patricia or Patty. No one named "Patty Hale" is listed as a resident of Boston.

celebration: Hale refers to the centennial celebration of the Berwick Academy, scheduled for 1 July 1891.

common: Boston Common, a main public park in 1891.

Whitney, Manning: See Anne Rebecca Whitney in Key to Correspondents.

am): The transcription of this clause is uncertain, and its meaning seems obscure.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Hale, Patty. 1 letter; 1891 (87). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne

Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

James Russell Lowell to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

ELMWOOD,

CAMBRIDGE.

MASSACHUSETTS.

[*End letterhead*]

26th April, 1891.

Dear Mifs Jewett,

I did not forget* — indeed the thought of you has made a fester in my conscience. Apart from the fact that I have few days, just now, in which I can control my [*deletion*] wits enough to put words logically together, I was confronted with the fact that whatever I esfayed had the air of a [puff *?*]. I could not shut <u>you</u> out — would you have me?

At last I wrote something which I still hesitated to

Mifs Jewett

[*Page 2*]

send & send now that I may fulful my promises. If there is anything in it which will be of use to Mr Osgood* pray <u>have it copied</u> & sent to him. For conscience sake, I will suppose it written to Mrs Fields.* Do what you will with it.

With love to Mrs Fields,

Affectionately yours

J. R. Lowell.

[*Page 3*]*

Mr. Lowell had said in answer to a message from Mr. Osgood who was republishing my book, that he would send a letter to be printed in England — It was after he became seriously ill, and I of course said no more, thinking that he had forgotten it — Then came this note with a charming letter about my stories — but I always grieve to think that it worried him.

S.O.J.

Notes

forget: Lowell refers to a piece he wrote for Jewett's London Publisher, Constable. See his letter of July 1891 and Jewett's letter to Mabel Lowell Burnett of 2 May 1891.

Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondence.

Page 3: The date when Jewett added this note is not yet known.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Lowell, James Russell, 1819-1891. 3 letters; bMS Am 1743 (139). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

James Russell Lowell to Constable, Jewett's London Publisher

[*Begin letterhead*]

ELMWOOD.

CAMBRIDGE.

MASSACHUSETTS.

[*End letterhead*]

[*Near 26 April 1891*]*

We are permitted to make the following Extract from a letter of Mr Lowell.

"I am very glad to hear that Mifs Jewett's delightful stories* are to be reprinted in England. Nothing more pleasingly characteristic of rural life in New England has been written & they have long been valued by the judicious here. They are properly idylls in prose & the life they commemorate is as simple in its main elements, if not so picturesque in its setting, as that which has survived for us in Theocritus.

Mifs Jewett has wisely chosen to

[*Page 2*]

work within narrow limitations, but these are such only as are implied in an artistic nature & a cheerful compliance with it. She has thus learned a discreet use of her material & to fill the space allotted without overcrowding it either with scenery or figures. Her work is narrow in compafs, like that of the gem cutter, but there is always room for artistic completenefs & breadth

of treatment which are what she aims at & attains. She is lenient in landscape, a great merit, I think in these days. Above all she is also discreet in dialect, using it for flavor but not, as is the wont of many, so opprefsively as to suggest garlic. She has a gift of quiet pathos & its correlative equally subdued humor.

I remember once, at a dinner of the Royal Academy, [*deletion*] wishing there might be a toast in honor of the Little Masters* such as Tenniel, Du Maurier,* and their fellows. The tiny woodcuts traced by those

(over)

[*Page 3*]

who gave rise to the name attract an affectionate partiality which the spacious compositions of more famous contemporaries fail to win. They are artists in the best sense, [*deletion*] ^who could make^ small means suffice for great ends. It is with them that I should clafs Mifs Jewett, since she both pofsefses & practises this precious art.

[James Russell Lowell]*

Notes

1891: Francis Otto Matthiessen presents a transcription of this letter in his biography, *Sarah Orne Jewett*, 1929. There he says that Jewett believed it was one of the last things Lowell wrote before his death on 12 August 1891. While it may be one of the last things Lowell wrote, that seems unlikely. See Lowell to Jewett of 26 April 1891 and Jewett to Mabel Lowell Burnett of 2 May 1891.

A black-bordered envelope associated with this letter is addressed "For Mifs Jewett, With Mr Lowell's Compliments & Thanks." Not stamped, it probably was hand-delivered.

delightful stories: Probably, Lowell refers to *Strangers and Wayfarers* (1890), which appeared in London from Osgood, McIlvaine in 1891. *Tales of New England* (1890), according to WorldCat appeared in an 1893 London edition from Osgood, McIlvaine.

*Tenniel, Du Maurie*r: For George du Maurier, Key to Correspondents. Sir John Tenniel (1820-1914) was a British artist and cartoonist. His political cartoons appeared in *Punch*. He illustrated works of Lewis Carroll. Wikipedia.

Lowell: The brackets and name are penciled in another hand.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Wednesday night

[*28 April 1891*]*

Dearest Dear Fuff —

This dear letter from Mr. Lowell!* It made my heart ache too, but I have talked over that side of it so many times that I wont do any thing but say my pleasure. I wish that we could read it together —

(I was so sorry that I forgot to carry your letter

[*Page 2*]

down to the hall table to be posted — It was conference day and I hadn't seen you since noon of yesterday and poor Fuffatee to find no word from Pinny and to [*deleted word* think *?*] miss seeing Nelly Arnold's* letter & all until morning!

We were in a little scurry and uncertainty this morning early about getting off, for the morning was so cold and windy — but we did

[*Page 3*]

drive away about half past eight toward Rochester and had a great deal of pleasure out of the day. I found a new bit of old road on our roundabout way home and I am going to hie me there again to take some pretty photographs. There was one lovely place a little old house by a brook about six miles from here) —

Thursday morning. I have

[*Page 4*]

waked to a day of great emprise — the parlor is a-cleaning and all the books and candlesticks and chiny images of one sort and another, but idols all, are on the highway of the hall. I have my duties, and I feel as slow and sleepy as my favorite hopper-toad!

I have been writing to Mr. Lowell and oh how I wish that it were a good letter with the right words —

[*heavily deleted line*]

(I shall write to Mabel* soon and I can tell her better than I can tell him how I feel about it! It is

[*Page 5*]

a lovely bright day as ever was, and I am full of business as can be.

I think that this is such a charming bit of writing of Mr. Lowells — it has such form and perfection and all that about the Little Masters* is so lovely —

(I wish I knew where to ask Mr ~~Lowell~~ ^Osgood^* to put it. I wonder if Mr. Lowell sees the Spectator or the Academy. No, perhaps it is the Athenæum. I can ask Mabel — for I really cannot help writing her in a day or two.

(Dear Fuff I had such a dear and delightful letter from you of which I have not spoken. How charming all that was about Mr. Winthrop,* and how we will talk more about it next week.

Your Pinny —)

was the [booting *or* footing] right?*

Notes

28 April 1891: Jewett refers to her letter from James Russell Lowell of 26 April 1891, which apparently included a copy his letter to Constable above.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript almost certainly are by Fields.

Mr. Lowell: James Russell Lowell (1819 - 12 August 1891). Key to Correspondents. And see below regarding the letter.

Nelly Arnold: Eleanor Mary Caroline Arnold (1861-1936), was a daughter of British poet and cultural critic, Matthew Arnold (24 December 1822 - 15 April 1888). She married Armine Wodehouse in 1889, and remarried after his death, in 1909. That Jewett calls her "Nelly Arnold" does not guarantee that she was not yet married when this letter was composed, as Jewett sometimes continues to call women by their "maiden names" after they marry.

Mabel: Mabel Lowell Burnett, daughter of James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

Little Masters: See above, Lowell to Constable of about 26 April 1891.

Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

It is not perfectly clear whether this deletion and insertion are by Jewett or by Fields.

Spectator ... Academy ... Athenæum: Contemporary literary magazines. Jewett seems persuaded that this letter should be published, but apparently it was not.

Mr. Winthrop: This may be Robert C. Winthrop, Jr. (1834-1905), lawyer and author with an interest in history.

right: This note appears at the bottom right corner of the page and has been circled, either by Jewett or by Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

South Berwick

Wednesday 29th April [*1891*]*

My dear Lilian

I wish to tell you how much I enjoyed my little visit to you yesterday and all your dear kindness which somehow carried me back in the [sweetest *corrected*] way to the first days that I knew that kindness and all our pleasant days at

[*Page 2*]

Ponkapog. Some day we must be driving about the country roads together and try again to see how much we can remember of that little white book of Lyrics and Sonnets!*

I took my half past three train and reached home at six to find my dear mother still

[*Page 3*]

very comfortable — I shall never be contented until I have had you & T.B.A.* come to see us in the old house. I dont know why Fate has put so many other things first, but these are uncertain days, though there could hardly be any day when I should not be glad if I saw you come walking in. I hope

[*Page 4*]

that Mr. Pierce* is still undergoing his severe course of treatment? I can't help wondering what you gave him for luncheon today. Almost anything would seem such a "comedown" after yesterday!

— Next time I shall not forget my dear little vase. I am just as fond of it as if it were before my eyes.

Yours always affectionately

"Sadie"

Notes

1891: This letter must have been composed after the appearance of Aldrich's *XXXVI Lyrics and XII Sonnets* and before the death of Jewett's mother, Caroline Augusta, in October 1891. 29 April fell on a Wednesday in 1885 and in 1891. As Jewett's mother clearly was unwell in 1891, but is not yet known to have been seriously ill during 1885, 1891 seems the more probable date of this letter.

Lyrics and Sonnets: Thomas Bailey Aldrich published his collection *XXXVI Lyrics and XII Sonnets* in 1880 or 1881 (sources differ). The 1881 edition seems to have a white cover.

T.B.: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Pierce: Henry Lille Pierce. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117). At the bottom left of page one, in another hand, is a circled number: 2721.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

4/30 1891

My dearest Friend

It is long since I have heard from thee, and I am wondering where my note will find thee. Possibly thee have gone South to meet the coming summer half way. From day to day I have been wishing to write to thee, but the long

[*Page 2*]

winter and ever-varying spring have been too much for me, and I have been vainly praying like the [Irishman *or* Irishmen] for "more power to my elbow."* The world about us is becoming very green — our magnolias are in bloom, and the English violets which have sown themselves over our lawn are sweet and lovely.

[*Page 3*]

But when I venture out in the tempting sunshine I am driven back by winds blowing Labrador ice through it.

I hope this will find thee well and Sarah* with thee. I don't read much but of course I did not neglect her admirable story, the "Native of Winby." It is not by any means a sad story but there were tears in my eyes

[*Page 4*]

before I laid it down{.} I felt for the time as if I was Joe [*several deleted words*] Laneway trying to find my lost youth in the old homestead pasture. It is wonderfully true to nature. I must tell thee [*deleted letters*] how I was impressed by the strength and unworldly solemnity of thy "Silence and Solitude."* There is an awful beauty in it.

I hear of [Stepniak *?*],* and the Besant, lectures in Boston. The latter ex{-}

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

pounding Theosophy, and Browning celebrations &c{.} I hope Phillips Brooks* will be elected Bishop — if the Episcopal Church has the grace to do it.

[*Up the right margin of page 4*]

Good bye dear friend. Got bless thee

J G. W.

Notes

"more power to my elbow": A phrase sometimes attributed to Irish-Americans in the 19th century, presumably in reference to their stereotype as excessive consumers of alcoholic beverages.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett's story, "A Native of Winby" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in May 1891.

"Silence and Solitude": Fields's poem appeared in the April 1891 *Harper's Magazine.* It was collected in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895).

[*Stepniak ?*]: While this transcription is uncertain, it is the case that, according to Wills J. Buckingham, in *Emily Dickinson's Reception in the 1890s: A Documentary History*, p. 131, a Mr. Stepniak lectured in Boston in April 1891 on Ukrainian artist and author, Marie Bashkirtseff (1858-1884) and other topics. The lecturer was

Ukrainian revolutionary Sergey Mikhaylovich Stepnyak-Kravchinsky (1851-1895). See the Boston *Daily Globe* 1 January 1891, p. 3.

*Besant, lectures ... Browning celebration*s: Annie Besant (1847-1933) was a British activist, writer, orator, philanthropist, and Theosophist. She made her first lecture tour of the United States in 1891.

British poet, Robert Browning (1812-1889). Which particular celebration Whittier refers to is not known. The Browning Society of Boston held its annual meeting in March.

Phillips Brooks's: Key to Correspondents. He was elected the sixth Episcopalian Bishop of Massachusetts in April 1891.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4858.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Friday morning

[*1 May 1891*]*

Dearest Fuff

I have been on a trading v'y'ge to hold the horse for John while he got a bunch of shingles to mend the well-house roof. And we also went down to the boat house to see what must be done about painting &c — I begin to feel in a hurry about going down river! I particularly wish to take some photographs before the leaves are fully out.

[*Page 2*]

Here is the first of May, and no Pinny going maying for press of other business, only she May fetch a compass "round* by the woods later in the day. ——— (I wonder what you are going to do. Is it Board Meeting (as usual?))*

There is such a bustle out of doors now all the farmers are out and they come hurrying into the village for seeds and shovels

[*Page 3*]

and all sorts of things. After this time they have to be just as hard at work as possible, until after haying.

There is a new paper of Miss Thackerays!* I found it last night in Littell. So if Miss Hunt* does not find it & send it I will bring it next week when I come. It is a charming one — about a — but perhaps I wont tell! (I dare say that Miss Hunt

[*Page 4*]

will think we had [this *corrected*] one as it must have come already when I saw her and I told her to send any that came after this.

Goodby dear little Fuff — with

much love from P.L)

Notes

1 May 1891: Someone, probably Fields, has penciled in the top right: "[May 1st ?]" Indeed, Jewett does indicate that she is writing on the actual first day of May rather than merely near the beginning of the month. In the years between 1888 and 1902, when she is most likely to have written this letter, May 1 fell on Friday in 1891 and 1896. Lady Ritchie had a piece reprinted in *Littell's* for 2 May 1891. Therefore, this date seems highly likely to be right. See notes below.

Most parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

"round: The quotation mark before "round" seems clear, but no second one appears.

Board Meeting (as usual?)): Jewett has placed parentheses around the phrase, and Fields has penciled another at the end. Fields regularly attended board meetings for the Associated Charities of Boston.

new paper of Miss Thackerays: British author Anne Isabella, Lady Ritchie (1837-1919) was the eldest daughter of novelist William Makepeace Thackeray. Her "My Witches' Caldron" part 2, appeared in *Littell's Living Age* 189 (2 May 1891, pp. 295-8), reprinted from *Macmillan's Magazine*. This memoir became a chapter in *Chapters from Some Unwritten Memoirs* (1895).

Miss Hunt: In a letter to Fields from April 1901, Jewett mentions a Miss Hunt at Darnrells as a supplier of magazines. In that letter, the transcription of "Darnrells" is uncertain. As yet, neither Miss Hunt nor the business has been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

[*2 May 1891*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

I thank you for the statement of my copyright account which I received last night, and for the cheque enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick Maine

2 May.

Notes

1891: At the top right of page 1, in another hand: "S. O. Jewett. 5/2". At the center top and overlapping the text is a Houghton Mifflin date stamp: 4 May 1891.

At the bottom of the page, above Jewett's return address are the initials: "F.J.G." for Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

Also at the bottom, to the right of her return address are more initials, probably "MJ".

On the back of the folder sheet is a Riverside Press date stamp, also from 4 May 1891.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mabel Lowell Burnett

South Berwick Maine

2 May 1891

My dear Mabel

I cant tell you how much I felt your father's kindness* in ^his^ doing all that charming piece of work for me. In the beginning I only thought of his giving me, or Mr. Osgood* and me, a sentence or two, and it gave me a great pang at my heart to think that my

[*Page 2*]

asking should have fretted him and teased him when he was not feeling strong. I cant bear to think of that! I know too well what a misery an undone difficult little thing like that can give, —- but I will not dwell on that part of it! It is certainly such a delightful bit of writing that I am thankful because my

[*Page 3*]

sketches and such golden kindness together [*deletion*] have made it. I know well how much I shall owe to such kind words, and you may be looking out for a great deal better [*deletion*] sketches next time! —— I hope to see you when I go to town again. It looks as if Mrs. Fields* would go to Manchester after all, and I find, after having urged her a good deal

[*Page 4*]

to go abroad without me, that I have been dreadfully afraid that she would! She is a good deal better since spring came in. Of course I cannot think of being away from home much this summer, but I am so glad to tell you that my mother is getting on much better of late, and can even drive out which is a great pleasure and resource.

I have wished often that I could see you dear Mabel.

[*Page 5*]

I wish indeed that we were nearer, but "the Deestrict"* sometimes seems nearer to Elmwood than Boston does because I have so much quiet time when I think about you and how much pleasure and reminding of good things your friendship always gives me. I always remember with an [odd *or* old *?*] touched feeling something that dear good Mrs. Osgood* said once long ago — that she

[*Page 6*]

believed she had one talent — and it was for appreciation — [*deletion*] for valuing those she loved, and the beautiful things that people wrote and did. I have remembered that many times.

= I have had great dealings, according to your suggestion, with Mr. I. [Wilton *corrected*] Hall* of School Street and I like his work very much, only as you told me, he sometimes does get the prints too dark.

[*Page 7*]

I am going to make some voyages down the river next week — to take some of the old riverside houses and trees before the leaves are fully out. I wish that we could go together — we might fit up a van as they do in England and go

gypsying along the coast! But what a long letter I am writing in this Saturday morning! As I look back at it I am astonished [*deletion*] and I suppose that

[*Page 8*]

it bristles with I's like a paper of pins — all of which you will please forget! — With dear love

Yours always affectionately

S.O.J.

Please give my love to your father and tell him how much I thank him — I tried to do it in my note and have to remember that I could not write as I wished when I began —

Notes

father's kindness: Jewett refers to the piece James Russell Lowell wrote about Jewett. See Lowell to Jewett of 26 April 1891 and to Constable, Jewett's London Publisher, July 1891.

Mr. Osgood: Jewett refers to publisher James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Deestrict: Jewett uses the dialect phrase to refer to the district of Maine, her home state.

Mrs. Osgood: In March 1893, Jewett published an obituary sketch of Martha Hooper Usher (Mrs. Joseph) Osgood (1 May1823 - 27 February 1893): "Mrs. Osgood of Bar Mills."

Hall: According to the *Boston Almanac and Business Directory* (1892, p. 446), I. Wilton Hall had a photography printing business at 21 School Street (p. 446). *The Boston. American Annual of Photography and Photographic Times Almanac* Volume 3 (1888) lists him as treasurer of The Photographer's Club of Boston, which had about 40 members (p. 23). See Jewett to Burnett of 2 March 1891.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: James Russell Lowell Additional Papers, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. A.L.s.(S.O.J.) to Mabel [(Lowell) Burnett]; South Berwick, 2 May 1891., 1891. Box: 2 MS Am 1484.1, (222).

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

Sunday 3rd of May [*1891*]*

My dear friend.

It seems such a long time since I heard of you directly — and longer still since I saw you. I kept thinking that I should find a chance to go to see you while you were at Newburyport, but though I went to Boston twice or perhaps three times, it always

[*Page 2*]

happened that I had to hurry to town and hurry home again at the beginning and end of each of the visits! The last time I saw our dear A. F.* she seemed much better and that made me better contented to come away. I think that she was meant for a child of the tropics for in these bright hot spring days when others wilt, she only blooms and is possessed of more

[*Page 3*]

energy than usual.

I have not much news to tell you. My mother is very comfortable just now, compared to her more suffering state in the winter. She gets out to drive now and then which always makes the long day go faster and a better sleep at night. We are very busy about our Academy Centennial which comes off the first of July. Aren't you glad that you never came to Barvik* to school, or they would

[*Page 4*]

[*An* S *or an* 8]

be making you write a poem! I wish that I could have written one for I have a great feeling about the old school ^house^ on the hill, but it grows almost impossible for me to write verses as I grow older — while when I was a child everything sung itself into verse in my mind and a composition was an awful — object of first dread, [and *corrected*] then failure. It was just as hard for me to write prose at first as it is to write verse now. — However there is a good old gentleman, Mr.

[*Page 5*]

[*Penciled in another hand* Sunday 3rd of May]

Amos Pike (one of the old Parson Pike family ^of Rollinsford^)* who has a gift that way and I put in for him to write The Poem, and he was pleased

about it. You would like him, he has been a farmer & school teacher all his days and wears a parsonish black coat and might be a Scottish dominie.

— I wonder if you read my May story in the Atlantic?* I hoped that you would like it — but I wrote a new one in a day last week when I ought to have

[*Page 6*]

been in “meetin' ” — It would be written, and is all about a country father who wished his little girls to see something of the world and how other folks do things so he takes them to Topsham Corners, sixteen miles, and they have a great day.* It made me cry a little now and then, somehow it brought back the feeling I used to have —

I wish to get it copied and printed just as quick as I can and send it to you to read!

I hope that you are feeling pretty well this spring, and that

[*Page 7*]

winter has been kind to the trees and bushes at Oak Knoll* and in your Amesbury garden. I should like to see the old pear trees in bloom. You must write about their white flowers some day! My love to the ladies & Phebe* and to you from Sarah.

Notes

1891: The centennial celebration of Berwick Academy was to be held on 1July 189l.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Barvik: Jewett is likely referring to an archaic spelling and pronunciation of "Berwick." See her essay, "The Old Town of Berwick."

Mr. Amos Pike: For the celebration, Amos W. Pike provided "The Centennial Hymn" of four stanzas, which was to be sung to the melody of "Old Hundred." See *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy*, p. 3.

Atlantic: Jewett's "A Native of Winby" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (67:609-620), May 1891.

great day: "The Hilton's Holiday" appeared in *Century Magazine (*24:772-778), September 1893.

Oak Knoll ... Phebe: Richard Cary says:

> In 1875 Whittier's cousins, the Misses Johnson and Abby J. Woodman, purchased a farm of sixty acres in Danvers and invited him to make his home there whenever he wished. The place was notable for beautiful lawns, orchards, gardens, and grapevines. Whittier suggested the name of "Oak Knoll," which was immediately adopted.... Phebe Woodman Grantham was the adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby J. Woodman. In her childhood she lived at Oak Knoll and was the object of much affection by Whittier, who wrote the poem "Red Riding Hood" for her. She became extremely possessive of Whittier in later life and, from accounts in Albert Mordell's biography and a letter by Miss Jewett to Samuel T. Pickard, could be unseemly sharp in defending her interest.

Whittier's birthplace and childhood home, which he also maintained through his life was in Amesbury, MA, about 25 miles north of Danvers. Cary says:

> George Washington Cate (1834-1911) came to Amesbury as a lawyer in 1866, was appointed judge ten years later. He served in the Massachusetts Senate and locally as trustee of several civic organizations. He married Caroline C. Batchelder of Amesbury in 1873. After Whittier went to live at Oak Knoll, the Cates occupied the Amesbury residence and kept it open for him and his friends until the end of his life.

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Undated Letters, Folder 75, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

5/6 1891

My dear Annie Fields

Thy welcome letter came just after I had written to Mr Hale* that I could not comply with his request{.} Thy endorsement of it almost persuaded me to retract my ~~refusal~~ refusal and try to fight over the battle of Bennington*

[*Page 2*]

in verse, but I felt that this was impossible{.} I have just got a letter from our dear Sarah* who says she is coming to see thee soon. I am glad to see by thy letter that thy health must be much better than usual at this season. I hope thee will not presume too much upon it, and overwork and become not only

[*Page 3*]

weary but sick in well-doing{.}

How glad everybody is that Phillips Brooks* is Bishop! not only of the Episcopal Church but of all New England.

I have not the address of Mr Hale, and thee will do me the favor of sending the enclosed* to him.

I have many things to say but my head is not strong enough for writing. Good bye

[*Page 4*]

dearly beloved friend!

J.G.W.

Notes

Mr Hale: It seems likely this is Edward Everett Hale. Key to Correspondents.

It appears Whittier may have been asked to speak or write for the occasion of the dedication of the Bennington Battle Monument, which took place as part of the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the admission of Vermont as a state on 19 August 1891. Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909) was related to the Revolutionary War hero, Nathan Hale (1755-1776) of Vermont.

battle of Bennington: An American Revolutionary War battle, won by American forces in August 1777.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Phillips Brooks's: Key to Correspondents. He was elected the sixth Episcopalian Bishop of Massachusetts in April 1891.

A penciled "x" appears in the left margin next to this paragraph.

enclosed: With the letter in the Huntington folder is the following newspaper clipping, source not identified. In *The Works of John Greenleaf Whittier* (v. 6, p. 180) this piece is dated 25 December 1885.

To Rev. Charles Wingate, Hon James H. Carleton, Thomas B. Garland, Esq., Committee of Students of Haverhill Academy, 1827-1830.

DEAR FRIENDS. I was most agreeably surprised last evening, by receiving your carefully-prepared and beautiful Haverhill Academy Album, containing the photographs of a large number of my old friends and schoolmates. I know of nothing which could have given me more pleasure. If the faces represented are not so unlined and ruddy as those which greeted each other at the old Academy, on the pleasant summer mornings so long ago, when life was before us, with its boundless horizon of possibilities, yet, as I look over them, I see that, on the whole, Time has not been hard with us, but has touched us gently. The hieroglyphics he has traced upon us may, indeed, reveal something of the cares, trials and sorrows incident to humanity, but they also tell of generous endeavor, beneficent labor, developed character, and the slow, sure victories of patience and fortitude. I turn to them with the proud satisfaction of feeling that I have been highly favored in my early companions, and that I have not been disappointed in my school friendships. The two years spent at the academy I have always reckoned among the happiest of my life, though I have abundant reason for gratitude that, in the long, intervening years, I have been blessed beyond my deserving.

It has been our privilege to live in an eventful period, and to witness wonderful changes since we conned our lessons together, how little we then dreamed of the steam car electric telegraph and telephone! We studied the history and geography of a world only half explored. Our country was an unsolved mystery. "The Great American desert" was an awful blank on our school maps. We have since passed through the terrible ordeal of civil war, which has liberated enslaved millions, and made the union of the states an established fact, and no longer a doubtful theory. If life is to be measured not so much by years as by thoughts, emotion, knowledge, action, and its opportunity of a free exercise of all our powers and faculties, we may congratulate ourselves upon really outliving the venerable patriarchs. For myself, I would not exchange a decade of my own life for a century of the Middle Ages, or a "cycle of Cathay."

Let me, gentlemen, return my heartiest thanks to you, and to all who have interested themselves in the preparation of the Academy Album, and assure you of my sincere wishes for your health and happiness. Your Friend,

John G. Whittier.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4718.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury

May 6 1891

My dear Sarah

I am delighted to see thy handwriting again, and would be still gladder to see thee. Of course I have read thy admirable story in the Atlantic.* It is wonderful in its beautiful simplicity and tender realism.

[*Page 2*]

I am rarely moved to tears but my eyes grew moist as I read it. I am proud of it and of thee.

I may be here for the next three weeks. The spring opens finely and early, but I am afraid the frosts of the last two nights [have *or* has *?*] injured the fruit trees. At any

[*Page 3*]

rate, they have been hard on me.

Are thee not glad of Phillips Brooks's election?* We outsiders have all got a Bishop now. My cousins at Newburyport* have been hoping to have a call from thee all winter. I shall hope to see thee here, when going or returning. I am

[*Page 4*]

thankful that dear Annie Fields is so well this spring. The "Silence and Solitude" is a grand and solemn poem. I am glad thee found somebody else to write the Academy verses.* Anybody can do that but nobody can write prose like thee.

Ever affectionately,

John G Whittier

Notes

Atlantic: Jewett's May 1891 *Atlantic Monthly* story was "A Native of Winby."

Phillips Brooks's election: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents. He was elected the sixth Episcopalian Bishop of Massachusetts in April 1891. Whittier, a Quaker, considers Brooks a bishop for his faith as well as Jewett's.

Newburyport: See Whittier in Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents above.

Annie Fields: Annie Adam Fields's poem, "Silence and Solitude," appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in April 1891.

Academy verses: See Jewett's letter to Whittier of 3 May 1891.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Colby College Library, Special Collections, Sarah Orne Jewett Materials, JEWE.1, Subseries: Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, John Greenleaf Whittier. 1887-1891. 3 ALS. Amesbury, Oak Knoll, MA. 10 p. A transcription by Richard Cary appears in "Whittier Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett," *in Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* ed. John B. Pickard (Hartford: The Emerson Society, 1968), pp. 11-22. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Hamlin Garland

South Berwick Maine

6 May 1891

Dear Professor Garland

You were very kind to think of taking trouble to secure me a place at the Herne play* and I wish that I could avail myself of your kindness. I am to be in town for Thursday night but unfortunately my engagements do not leave me free.

With my best thanks I am

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Herne play: James Nagel identifies this play as James A. Herne's *Margaret Fleming*, "which had opened two days earlier, on 4 May, in Chickering Hall in Boston." The play did not fare well in Boston, presumably because "the problem of marital infidelity was treated with freedom and candor" (p. 422).

This transcription is from the digital copy at the University of Southern California Digital Library, Hamlin Garland Correspondence 1864-1941: Sarah Orne Jewett letter 1891-05-06. Previous transcriber James Nagel published and discussed his transcription in "Sarah Orne Jewett Writes to Hamlin Garland." *The New England Quarterly* 54.3 (September 1981), pp. 416-23. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday night

[*7 May 1891*]

Darling Fuff.

I wonder if you wont like to hear more about the letter to representatives of the Press,* or about blue badges that some of us have been cutting for the little printer, or about the committee meeting about the decorations, or about going to see Mr. Amos Pike* about the poem and to the Plumer farm* for butter, or a long letter that I have written

[*Page 2*]

for Mr. President-of-the-Board-of Trustees's* private eye there where he sits all unthinking in his office in Burling Slip New York* ——- or such things! No, I know my Fuffatee and her tastes but if she were here she would be sitting in each committee and knowing all about things very nice indeed, and gather enthusiasm by the way! I have read about twenty minutes today but it has been a good day.

[*Page 3*]

Here comes Mary* up to bed a catching of me though I started first and the clock is a striking eleven. (Here is Mabel's* letter which is as if you had walked in where she sat and mildly complained, but liked it all pretty well, dont you think so? —— It is a funny letter, quite taken up with her surroundings and yet giving you no idea of them. I half think that she had not got my letter when she

[*Page 4*]

wrote. I wonder if she had!

Oh yes, she must have had time — Dont you think that poor Coyle's verses* are interesting? I think "And drink delusion from

her eyes

and smile at ruin on her breast" — have quite the old ring? I am so glad that you have been able to help him. I am delayed about the programme and dont know whether I shall get my few hours in town or not this week. I am still in doubt about Katie Coolidge.* Good night with dear love to you and "the company" from Pinny)

Notes

7 May 1891: It seems likely that this letter follows Jewett's to Mabel Burnett of 2 May 1891. This is supported by her report on her progress in organizing the Berwick Academy Centennial, which took place on 1 July 1891.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript also were penciled in green by Fields.

the Press: The centennial celebration of the founding of Berwick Academy, of which Sarah and Mary Jewett were alumnae, was held on July 1, 189l.

Amos Pike: For the celebration, Amos W. Pike provided "The Centennial Hymn" of four stanzas, which was to be sung to the melody of "Old Hundred." See *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy*, p. 3.

Plumer farm: In *The Placenames of South Berwick,* Wendy Pirsig tells of the Plumer family, who operated the local bakery and owned other property in South Berwick (p. 74).

President: "Horatio Nelson Twombly, nephew of William H. Fogg, was born in South Berwick and had graduated from Berwick Academy in the 1840s. He joined and eventually headed his uncle William H. Fogg's China and Japan Trading Company, continuing as president after both Mr. and Mrs. Fogg's deaths. A bachelor who made his home in New York, Twombly spent many years in Asia with the company, including some time in Shanghai overseeing Fogg family business on the Bund during the Taiping Rebellion. In 1886 Twombly became president of Berwick Academy's board of trustees, and oversaw the construction of Fogg Memorial in 1894. The bronze bell in the tower, specially cast in London, was a Twombly gift to the academy." Old Berwick Historical Society

Burling Slip: Burling Slip in New York City, was one of number of boat slips in lower Manhattan in the 19th Century.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Mabel: Mabel Lowell Burnett. Key to Correspondents.

Coyle's verses: Henry Coyle was a poet who worked as an editor and published in magazines. In 1899, his first book of poetry appeared, *The Promise of Morning*. Various sources give his birth year as 1865 and 1869.

The poem Jewett quotes seems to have appeared in the *Detroit Free Press*, probably in 1891, though this has not been confirmed. It is possible that the poem was syndicated for publication in a number of newspapers, making it uncertain where Jewett and Fields found it. It was reprinted in *Current Opinion* 10 (1892) p. 272.

Katie Coolidge: Probably Jewett means Katherine/Catherine Scollay Parkman Coolidge. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Andrew Peabody

South Berwick, Maine

May 11, 1891

My dear Doctor Peabody

My sister is just sending you an invitation to our Great Day,* and we hope that you can find it possible to say yes. So many persons in town beside ourselves have wished for the honour of your presence. Dr. John Lord* has written

[*Page 2*]

a delightful historical address, and the early days of the old Academy were most interesting, even if some of the later ones have not been!

My mother and my sister* and I hope that you will give us the pleasure of coming to stay with us. I hope

[*Page 3*]

that you will not say that South Berwick is near Portsmouth, and so deprive us of a little visit!

Believe me, ever with great regard

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Please give my love to Carrie.* I wish that it were not so long since I saw her last — Perhaps she

[*Page 4*]*

can come with you?

Notes

Great Day: The centennial celebration of the founding of Berwick Academy on 1 July 189l.

Lord: For John Lord, Key to Correspondents.

> Richard Cary notes:
> For this occasion A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine was published. A volume of 118 pages, it includes contributions by the school's most illustrious graduates: a "Preface" by Miss Jewett, "The Historical Address" by the Reverend Lord, and "The Oration" by the Reverend William Hayes Ward. The Reverend Peabody provided the opening "Prayer."

sister: At the time of this letter, Jewett resided with her mother and her sister, Mary Rice Jewett, at the ancestral Jewett home in South Berwick, ME.

Carrie: One of Peabody's children was Caroline Eustis Peabody (1848-1932). Find a Grave.

Page 4: In another hand, in the bottom right margin of page 4: "S. O. Jewett, 12 May, 1891".

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary's transcription appears in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Hopkinson Smith

South Berwick Maine

15 May 1891

My dear Mr. Hopkinson Smith

I spent a delightful evening with our valued friend Colonel Carter* who arrived yesterday morning from Virginia. I have such sympathy for his charm and nobility of character that it delights me to think that you can always help him out of any trouble

[*Page 2*]

he may fall into through generosity and [loyalty *corrected*] to the traditions of the past. Seriously, you must never let him come to want, you must stand ready to write him into good fortune at any moment!

The story makes a charming little book. I congratulate you upon giving

[*Page 3*]

so much real pleasure and I hope that Colonel Carter may wake this very morning and find himself famous like Byron,* but I shall always count myself one of the first and best of his friends —

With my best thanks, and regards to your wife,

Believe me ever

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Colonel Carter: Smith's *Colonel Carter of Cartersville* (Boston, 1891).

Byron: British poet, George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824)..

This letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine: JEWE.1. Richard Cary transcription appears in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Saturday mornng

[*23 May 1891*]*

My dearest Mouse.

(Yesterday morning I was fastening up a vine and heard somebody calling and there was the Thorpe family* all a migrating to Lebanon in two vehicles! Fru Ole came in & Mrs. Thorpe and it was an occasion of great interest. Fru Ole thought she would come and spend Monday here on her way back to Cambridge — and wished Mary* to go with her

[*Page 2*]

but)* Mary thinks she "cant get away." I reminded her that even the President sometimes could go a-fishing which may have its effect! — I was <u>jobbing</u> as S.W.* says, all the morning but in the afternoon I got 26 pages done on the Hiltons,* and thought it was a good deal of copying in the whole. Last night was an Academy meeting* of great success, and so on the

[*Page 3*]

whole, (jobbing thrown in)* it was a good day — Also the breakfast room was thrown in, a papering with its new paper, and looks fresh and bright — (There are a great many things to talk about — one small one is that there were a few clean clothes in this week's washing which might be put into the Manchester trunk! I am looking for your letter by the first morning mail — Oh dear I wish you could come for a day or two { — } it is so pleasant now and Mother* is so well, for her,

[*Page 4*]

as the country folks say!

President Eliot* wrote a good letter to be read, which was a pleasure.

I suppose that there will be a <u>great</u> occasion, it seems more and more resplendent. I wish it were coming a month earlier for the village never looked lovelier. This delicious cold June weather is [*deleted word*] most delightful to me. I must get everything done today that I possibly can. It must be Enchanting at Manchester — and all the white anemones coming wide open. Dont you love to think of the path? Oh my <u>dear</u> Fuff! here is a kiss for you

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

right in the letter — from your own Pinny

Notes

23 May 1891: This date is confirmed by Jewett's references to the upcoming celebration of the centennial of the Berwick Academy in July. Probably it was written soon after receiving President Eliot's letter, which is likely to have been delivered by 23 May.

Most parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

Thorpe family: This is the family of Sara Chapman Thorp Bull, known affectionately as Fru Ole, after her marriage to Norwegian violinist Ole Bull. Jewett has added an "e" to the family name. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

but): After her parenthesis mark, Fields has inserted: "begin here —".

S.W.: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

Hiltons: Jewett refers to "The Hilton's Holiday," which appeared in *Century Magazine* (46:772-778), September 1893. See also Jewett to Whittier of 3 May 1891.

*Academy meetin*g: Jewett and her sister were deeply involved in planning the centennial celebration of the Berwick Academy which took place on 1 July 1891.

(jobbing thrown in): These parenthesis marks are Jewett's.

Mother: Caroline Augusta Jewett died in October 1891.

President Eliot: Charles W. Eliot (1834-1926), the President of Harvard University (1869-1909). His letter regretting his inability to attend the Berwick Academy Centennial celebration is dated 22 May, 1891 and appears in *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine: July First, 1891*, p. 77.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

May 26, 1891.

I wish I had a pansy to put here in memory of this day, — my little Gemma's;* forever an open window into Heaven.

Notes

Gemma: Whitman's beloved protégée, Sara Gemma Timmins, died a year earlier at the age of 28. A number of other letters on her death appear in *Letters*, and at the end is a Whitman poem addressed to Gemma. See Raguin, *Sarah Wyman Whitman 1842-1904* (pp. 133-4).

This transcription appears in *Letters*, Sarah Wyman Whitman. Cambridge, MA: Riverside Press, 1907, "Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett: 1882-1903," pp. 61-109.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Sunday —

[*31 May 1891*]*

This letter is to my dear little Fuff in Manchester with all the [songsparrows *?*] a singing at her and one or two crickets creaking under the piazza and all the hop toads on the estate getting up to the top of the [wall *?*] to [look at *corrected*] her just as fast as they can. Hop toads are always a little late but they will all be there. And Fuff to see the [Bakers *corrected*] Island [light *or* lights *corrected*]* like Pinny & T.L.* standing side by side and see if she hears a crow going over if she

[*Page 2*]

wakes up early in the morning! Fuff not to forget any of the dear neighbours in Manchester the birds and the other little things and all the green bushes that belong to she! And to please be wishing for Pinny and expecting her and pretty soon she will come —

Yesterday was Decoration day* and I have told you how touching it always is to me — the little procession of "veterans" grows more and more pathetic year

[*Page 3*]

by year. In the morning I went down to Pound Hill* to see an old woman who is very sick, an old patient of father's whom I have a kindness for — and then John* confided to me that his old captain (afterward Colonel)* whom he hadn't seen for a great many years, was going to be the speaker in Dover at the afternoon celebration, so we scurried across the Eliot bridge and into Dover and you never saw any thing more touching than John's delight and feeling about the interview. John said

[*Page 4*]

"th' Cap'n knew me in a minute. I was goin' right by him = Hullo John says he, that you! an' I says yes!"

=== I cant stop to write all about the interview — but I shall have to tell you about {it} when I see you{.}

I have been to church this afternoon to hear the Memorial Day Sermon and that shall be told about too.

= (* Dear Fuffatee I am going to send this down ^to the best effect^* tonight to go by the

early morning mail — so I say good night in a hurry and oh I send you my best love and a [*unrecognized word* cherry *?*] and wishes about dear days at Manchester

Your

loving

Pinny)

Notes

31 May 1891: This tentative date has some evidence to support it. Decoration Day fell on Saturday in 1885 and 1891. This holiday was special because of John Tucker meeting with his captain from the Civil War in a year when Jewett notices the dwindling number of surviving veterans. It seems likely that this event inspired Jewett's stories, "Decoration Day" which appeared in June 1892 and "Peachtree Joe" which appeared in 1893.

Penciled note in the upper right of page 1: "[May 31". Usually such notes are by Fields, but in this case, that is not certain.

Fuff: Note that Fields's birthday is a week away; this may explain in part Jewett's unusually effusive opening pages.

Bakers Island Light: A lighthouse in Salem, MA, near Manchester by the Sea.

Pinny and T.L.: Jewett and Fields.

Decoration day: Now called Memorial Day, this is an American holiday honoring military veterans, particularly by decorating with flowers the graves of deceased veterans.

Pound Hill: Pound Hill is east of Hamilton House in the Old Fields area of southern South Berwick. Norma Keim of the Old Berwick Historical Society has located it on what is now Fife's Lane, which once was part of the main road from Old Fields to York. This location is just east of Old Fields. See *The Maine Spencers, A History and Genealogy* by W. D. Spencer (Concord: Rumford Press, 1898) p. 108. It is quite likely that the name derives from the location of the village livestock pound. In the colonial period, many New England villages had pounds where strayed livestock would be kept at village expense until the owners claimed them and payed their fine or pound fee. (See John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America 1580-1845*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1982, p. 49).

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

old captain: This captain probably appears as a character in Jewett's story, "Peach-tree Joe" (July 1893) in which John Tucker tells Jewett a story from his Civil War service. His name is not yet known.

= (: The equal sign and the parenthesis marks around this passage were penciled in by Fields.

best effect^: Jewett has not indicated exactly where she wants this phrase inserted.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Sarah Wyman Whitman

[*1 June 1891*]*

My dearest S.W. I loved your letter very much and what it told of portraits. I wished that I could 'light on the topmost stairs and give a good pull at the shore bell — I wished that you would be there if I did! ——-

In the meantime great things go on in the Country! it is now a world of dandelion ghosts — and other ghosts!

[*Page 2*]

Perhaps you never saw a proper Decoration Day* — with the troops and only one village band, and no landaus with the tops down for veterans to ride in who are too old and [hurt *corrected*] to walk — These in Berwick go together in a little barge and others walk who can, only a few of them left, and one who was a captain rides his heavy cart horse with great

[*Page 3*]

pride and soberness with his old army belt round his large waist, and so the little procession is shorter and more pathetic every year and citizens in carriages — open wagons with gay little children sitting behind the grown [people *corrected*] follow after in a long line like a funeral and the Flag goes, and they sing hymns in the little burying grounds and and the bugler [sounds *corrected*] Lights

[*Page 4*]

out! over the graves and some of the old soldiers [put *corrected*] the [backs *?*] of their hands to their eyes when they hear it. So do

others who see them, and then on Sunday afternoon, the veterans and the Flag go to church together and are preached to — but at the same time preach themselves in the front pews to those who sit behind them. ——-

A.F.* flits to Manchester today — it is a little chilly

[*Page 5*]

and lonesome for she! but I believe that Miss Adams* is coming tomorrow — I tried to think that I could go over and spend tonight but I cant. She will get there in time to hear the song sparrows sing awhile and they are always most neighborly with A.F.* Perhaps I can go over for next Sunday who knows! perhaps on the way — who knows! but

[*Page 6*]

It seems necessary that I should go to the Studio because I never have heard a word about the Visit to Newport.

— There are things to tell [about *corrected*] stories — I am in the deep bog in the middle of one, and long to get through and done with it — Goodbye at the end of this long letter to my dear and idle friend!

I send you a wish and

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

one that is sure to come true, and I send my love always by all the birds that fly — dear dear S.W.

Yours ever

S.O.J.

Notes

1 June 1891: This date is a guess, but with a little support. Jewett seems to be thinking about the story she would publish a year later, "Decoration Day." But at this time, she was working on "The Hilton's Holiday." See Jewett to Fields of 23 May 1891. And there is a little evidence that Fields's sister Elizabeth made an extended visit to Fields in the summer of 1891. 1892 would be a feasible date, except that Jewett and Fields were abroad that summer.

Decoration Day: Now known as Memorial Day. One of Jewett's most popular short stories, "Decoration Day," appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in June 1892. Jewett's description of the village celebration in this letter closely parallels that in the story.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Miss Adams: Annie Fields had two sisters who did not marry: author and translator Sarah Holland Adams and painter Elizabeth Adams. It is more likely that Elizabeth would make an extended visit at the time this letter probably was written. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 277.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier Fragment

[*June 1891*]

Well! I have used up more ^space and gossiped more^ than the old sheet would hold and now I take another to answer your question about Sarah.* She has not been writing as much as usual because it seemed to be well for her not to try to write during the busy season [*mark*] here. She needs to

[*Page 2*]

let her work grow and the things that can't help writing themselves down are the things to attend to — In the hurry of city life we do not always find time to listen, alas! I believe she is still at work again however now at home, under the shelter of this

[*Page 3*]

good wet sky.

Do you know a writer I wonder by the name of Bliss Carman. A queer name enough. He is now writing good things — the last is a beautiful poem, in the Atlantic.

The old magazine holds its own bravely just now!

Lovingly yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

1891: This date is a somewhat arbitrary guess.

Wikipedia says William Bliss Carman (1861-1929) was a Canadian poet and notes that his literary success began with his collection, *Songs of Vagabondia* (1894), in the last year of Whittier's life.

An electronic search shows Carman publishing poems in *Atlantic Monthly* in the following years after 1883 and during Whittier's

remaining lifetime: 1887, 1889, 1891, 1893, 1894. Because Fields seems to have seen several of his poems, 1887 seems a less likely year. Her noting that *Atlantic* is holding its own points to the change of editorship in 1890, when her close friend, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, ended his term as editor of the magazine.

I have placed the letter in the month that his *Atlantic* poem, "The Last Watch" appeared (v. 67: 1891), though the remaining two years are possible.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Bliss Carman: Canadian poet, William Bliss Carman (1861-1929). Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Box: 12 Identifier: MS Am 1844, Box 12: 796-7**.** Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 15 letters to unidentified persons.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Isaac R. Webber

South Berwick

2 June [*1891*]*

Dear Mr. Webber

Please send Mrs. Fields* a copy of Viceregal Life in India by Lady Dufferin* (Mrs. J. T. Fields Manchester by the Sea. Mass.{)} & charge to me. Also I send the names of two other books which I should like to have you get and

[*Page 2*]

send to me here.

Yours truly

S. O. Jewett

Please let Mrs. Fields have the Lady Dufferin book as soon as possible.

Notes

1891: Jewett has dated her letter 2 July and has given no year. However, in the upper left corner of page 1 is a date in another hand: 6/3/91. The same date is repeated half way down the left margin: mail 6/3/91. Presumably Mr. Webber has noted when he mailed the requested books, this would appear to be at least 11 months after the request. Almost certainly, then, Jewett mistakenly wrote July rather than June.

This is supported further by there being a letter to Annie Fields dated 6 June, almost certainly from 1891, in which Jewett hopes Fields will like her birthday present, the Lady Dufferin book.

For information about Mr. Webber, see Dana Estes in Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Viceregal Life in India: *Our Viceregal Life in India* (1889), by Hariot Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava (1843-1936) .

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Saturday morning

My dear Fuff's* birthday

[*6 June 189*1]

(and I hope that all the song sparrows are singing very loud!) — I hope that you have got my letter this morning dear and that ^Miss^ Smith* is coming early in the afternoon. I{t} is lovely weather for a little visit. I do hope that she can come. I worked hard a good part of yesterday and now I am so much relieved about my [Bon *?*] story. You cant

[*Page 2*]

think how hard it is to keep ones mind on that when there are so many pleasing distractions{.} I really wish that you could come for a day or two before the end of the month — to see how pretty the village looks. Every body is taking such pains with her front yard! and ^we^ [having *corrected from* have *?*] particularly set the fashion there are ever so many people ~~taking~~ making their roadsides as neat and trimmed as square as possible — Dont you remember

[*Page 3*]

how we pleased ourselves with viewing the Stockbridge roadside?

I hope that you will like the Lady Dufferin book.* I found it full of delightful things — Not great, except in its good sense and pleasantness, and constant good intention of busy responsible lives. I marked all sorts of dear little re-marks. [*so punctuated*] that brighten the pages. I hope that you will find the good lady D. companionable.

(Only to think of a cold

[*Page 4*]

hearted cooky! I should have sent things back with a good [jone *?*] to be het up! But it must have been so pleasant to Nelly to come. You have never told me how to direct to the twins* and so I cant send them a letter by [todays *corrected*] steamers as I meant to — but never mind. I ought to have written it and sent it right off to Nelly to be directed. A [slack *?*] Pinny, ladies!

Good bye [darling *corrected*] and I shall see you Wednesday

Your — [P.L. *corrected*])

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

(you might show Miss Smith where my little shady trees are!)

Notes

1891: In notes at the top right of page 1, Fields assigns this letter to June 6, 1888, which was her birthday. However, June 6 fell on Wednesday, not Saturday in 1888. June 6 fell on Saturday in 1891. Another letter, almost certainly from 2 June 1891 contains Jewett's request that the Lady Dufferin book be delivered to Annie Fields.

Fuff's: The first pair of parenthesis marks in this letter appear to be Jewett's. The rest have been penciled in by Annie Fields.

Miss Smith: Miss Smith has not been identified. It appears Jewett exchanged letters with Miss Frances M. Smith, probably the author of *Talks with Homely Girls on Health and Beauty* (1885), *Colonial Families of America* (1909), and *About Our Ancestors* (1919).

Miss Smith has not been identified. It appears Jewett exchanged letters with Miss Frances M. Smith, probably the author of *Talks with Homely Girls on Health and Beauty* (1885), *Colonial Families of America* (1909), and *About Our Ancestors* (1919).

Another possibility is Paulina Cony Smith (b. 8 August 1873). Her father was Robert Dickson Smith of Boston (1838-1888). She married Rev. Alexander V. G. Allen (1841-1908) in January 1907. In June 1913, she married Edward Staples Drown (1861-1936) of the Harvard Class of 1884, and then authored *Mrs. Bell* (1931), a biography of Fields's close friend, Helen Choate Bell.

Edward Staples Drown was "professor of theology in the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was the author of numerous popular works, including *The Apostles' Creed Today, God's Responsibility for the War*, and *There Was War in Heaven*."

See *Harvard: Report of the Class of 1857* p. 47, for a brief account of her father's family.

Among Fields's acquaintance was Sarah/Sally Louisa Smith (1841-1916), daughter of Asa Dodge Smith (1804-1877), a president of Dartmouth College.

Lady Dufferin book: Our *Viceregal Life in India* (1889), by Hariot Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, Marchioness of Dufferin (1843-1936).

Nelly ... the twins: Jewett refers to the sisters, Helen Olcott Choate Bell and Miriam Foster Choate Pratt as the twins. Mrs Pratt's daughter was the novelist, Nelly Prince. Key to Correspondents. The Choate sisters were not actually twins.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Sunday night

[7 *June 1891*]

My Dearest Fuff

I was sorry when I got your sad little letter last night — I hoped that Mifs Smith* would come, and tried to think whether I couldn't have gone — Pinny* would go without a thin skirt made by your Swedish nightingale for the sake of spending a dear little birthday! But Fuff gets everything by having

[*Page 2*]

her Pinny's clothes respect it like [thee *?*] love — and so and so! but Pinny always to go for the birthday and to have missed this is a thing I shall be sorry to remember.

Here is this nice letter from Katharine the faithful and dear and good — it is full of interesting things, but I think she is no longer hopeful about Alice James{.}*

[*Page 3*]

I am so sorry, but how lovely this little housekeeping is for them both! — Did you read Ellen Terry's little paper in the Sunday Herald* today? I like it almost as well as one of Mrs. Ritchies,* it has a good many charming things in it. I mean to keep it so if you missed it we can have the pleasure of reading it together Wednesday evening. Goodnight darling from Pinny.

[*Page 4*]

I didn't go to church today for I was tired and wanted to stay with Mother beside.) I have come across an enchanting book called Forty Years in a Moorland Parish* — the Parish of Danby not far from Whitby. I dont think it is your kind of thing but I love it and find so much in it that is curiously familiar in words & ways ^to a Berwick person^. — I must ask Mr. Lowell* if he [knows *corrected*] anything about him if he

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

feels like talking when I see him again. I mean to try to get out there this week —

Notes

7 June 1891: The Sunday after Fields's birthday on 6 June 1891. See Jewett to Fields of that date.

The parenthesis mark in this manuscript was penciled by Fields.

Mifs Smith: See Jewett to Fields of 6 June 1891.

Alice James: Alice James (1848- 6 March1892), sister of American author Henry James and philosopher, William James, and domestic partner of Katharine Peabody Loring. Key to Correspondents.

Ellen Terry's little paper: Dame Alice Ellen Terry (1847-1928) was an English actress who became "the leading Shakespearean actress in Britain." Her paper in the Boston *Herald* has not been identified, but in May 1891, she published "Stray Memories," a brief account of her life, which appeared in *The New Review* and apparently was reprinted in newspapers around the world.

Mrs. Ritchies: Anne Isabella, Lady Ritchie (1837-1919), English writer, the eldest daughter of British novelist, William Makepeace Thackeray. Jewett mentioned enjoying a memoir piece by Lady Ritchie in her 1 May 1891 letter to Fields.

Forty Years in a Moorland Parish: John Christopher Atkinson (1814–1900) an English antiquary and priest, published Forty Years in a Moorland Parish in 1891.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mabel Lowell Burnett

South Berwick —

Sunday night 7th of June

[*1891*]*

My dear Mabel

I have been thinking of you often lately and wishing that I could see you. It makes me feel as if I must send a letter to ask how you are and how your father is, and if the Chicory* has taken a twist round China and made its

[*Page 2*]

re-appearance yet, and what you are reading for a story-book — with many other questions — As for my story book, it is just now a delightfully green volume called Forty Years in a Moorland parish and written by a Reverend Atkinson* D.C.L. who lives at Danby not a great way from

[*Page 2*]

Whitby so that I wonder if Mr Lowell* ever knew him or knew about him. Some of the Berwick people were from that region and much of what he, Mr Atkinson, says is curiously interesting to me — about words and ways —

Mrs. Fields* has gone to Manchester and seems to have got on very well in moving without me. I

[*Page 4*]

mean to go over as soon as I can, but that world-amazing day, the Berwick Academy Centennial Celebration,* draws near, and my sister and I are in a great state of excitement and feel ourselves to be of much importance. Dr. Peabody* is to be here and stay with us — he used to know [about *corrected*] the old school when he lived in Portsmouth.

What is Lilian Horsford* going to do this summer? I

[*Page 5*]

haven't heard from her for ever so long, or seen her. I daresay that it will be [Leath *?*] again . . . Did you happen to see Ellen Terry's reminiscences* in Today's Sunday Herald? I hope that you will hunt them up if you didn't, there were charming things. I mean to cut the little paper out and keep it, if I can recover it from the kitchen.

Good night. Do write a

[*Page 6*]

word before June is over unless you see me coming in at the front-gate first.

Yours most affectionately

S.O.J.

I had such a nice letter a day or two ago from Katharine Loring,* with London views of The Stage and Hedda Gabler, also ^of^ The American. It was funny to read the words of E. Terry afterward!

Notes

1891: This date is confirmed by Jewett's reference to the centennial celebration of the Berwick Academy.

Chicory: This sounds as if should be yacht, but it has not yet been identified.

Reverend Atkinson: *Forty Years in a Moorland Parish: Reminiscences and Researches in Danby in Cleveland* by John Christopher Atkinson (1814-1900), British author, priest, and antiquary. He received an honorary degree from Durham University: the exact meaning of DCL is uncertain: Doctor of Christian Leadership, or Christian Letters, or even Comparative Law. Wikipedia.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell, Burnett's father. Key to Correspondents.

Berwick Academy Centennial Celebration: The centennial celebration of the founding of Berwick Academy took place on 1 July 1891.

Dr. Peabody: Andrew Preston Peabody. Key to Correspondents.

Lilian Horsford: A daughter of Eben Norton Horsford. See his entry in Key to Correspondents.

Ellen Terry: British actress, Dame Alice Ellen Terry (1847-1928). Wikipedia.

Her paper in the Boston *Herald* has not been identified, but in May 1891, she published "Stray Memories," a brief account of her life, which appeared in *The New Review* and apparently was reprinted in newspapers around the world.

Katharine Loring: Katharine Peabody Loring. Key to Correspondents.

Hedda Gabler by Norwegian playwright, Henrik Ibsen, premiered in Munich on 31 January 1891. Wikipedia says that the first British performance was at the Vaudeville Theatre, London, on 20 April 1891.

"The American" is a dramatization of the 1877 novel by American author, Henry James. He adapted it into a moderately successful play that opened in London in 1891.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. A.L.s. (S.O.J.) to Mabel [(Lowell) Burnett]; South Berwick, 7 Jun [1885], [1885], in James Russell Lowell additional papers / Series: I. Correspondence and compositions, Box: 2 MS Am 1483, (186).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Monday morning

[*June 1891*]*

My dearest Fuff*

You had such lovely day yesterday for your dear works and ways* that you wont mourn so much about today! What a good plashing rain! I now speak from the point of view of those whose cistern had to have a new filter put in and

[*Page 2*]

be cleaned out dry in that process, "just before the Centennial" as it were! I went to town on Saturday leaving here at eight o'clock and getting back at six and I had a very comfortable cool day— and got the great business of the programme well forward and also helped the Master of the Academy to choose ten nice prize books. Mr. Webber* was

[*Page 3*]

in most generous humour and it was a pleasant errand. Then I had time for a glimpse at the Art

Museum and a little call on Cora* — I didn't go to the dear house, though I meant to when I started in the morning. I wished to take a look at the picture (of Satty Fairchild)* — and though it doesn't hang right it looks nobly. Alas! the first look (at Satty) is always

[*Page 4*]

so interesting and the second so disappointing — (What you miss in her gives a certain interest to the picture ^that I never felt so much before^ — it is an imploring of the future with those uplifted arms, a kind of remorse over the present. No, remorse is too strong a word; but light seems to have come in a sudden glimpse, rather than a constant leading. One doesn't feel the habit of devotion in that young priestess (— poor

[*Page 5*]

young Satty. ~~)~~ She is like her mother but without somethings that are in her mother's nature. Lily herself is unharmonious in the same way. I think that she had greater possibilities at Satty's age than Satty has perhaps —)) Well, I mustn't write about folkses any more* in this [*unrecognized word*] morning — but tell imperfect tales about my walking

[*Page 6*]

up the garden yesterday afternoon and hearing a great buzz-buzzing over among the apple trees and seeing the whole air brown with a swarm of bees, and rushing for one of the old hives and trying to take them, but off they went, [*deleted word*] leaving part of their company about some comb [which *corrected*] they

[*Page 7*]

had fastened on a bough of a tree — a thing I never saw before — Carrie's Minnie* who is an [*deleted word*] experienced country person from Bantry Bay as we have long known! came out ringing a bell as if she were one of those who took the bees in that pretty 'Georgic of Virgil"* — ~~And~~ There never was any thing simpler or [prettier *corrected from* pretty]. We got the remainder bees and

[*Page 7*]

their pieces of white new comb in to the hive and there they are I suppose in all the rain — I coveted the big swarm that went away! It was such a pretty lucky thing to go out and find them —

(Goodbye — somebody will take this to the mail — I send you so much love dearest Fuffatee

from your

Pinny)

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

(I thank you so much for sending the pendant which came all right. I will be very careful of it dear Fuff)

Notes

June 1891: This letter almost certainly was composed not too long before the 1 July 1891 celebration of the Berwick Academy Centennial. See notes below.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled in green by Fields.

Fuff: Fields has penciled an "x" after the greeting. This points to her penciled note at the bottom of the page: "a foolish little nick=name which she [used to use *?*]".

works and ways: "Works and ways" is a biblical-sounding phrase Jewett often used. It echoes some passages in the King James Bible -- Psalms 145:17, Daniel 4:37, and Revelations 15:3 -- where it usually suggests that while God's ways are mysterious, they also are to be accepted humbly by humanity.

the Centennial: The Berwick Academy centennial took place on 1 July 1891. Presumably, the "master of the Academy" was its principal, George A. Dickey.

Mr. Webber: For bookseller Isaac R. Webber, see Dana Estes in Key to Correspondents.

Cora: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

With her green pencil, Fields has deleted "on Cora" and drawn in a large open parenthesis mark before the next sentence. In black pencil, she has placed an insertion mark pointing to a word that may be "but".

The "dear house" probably is 148 Charles Street, which implies that this letter was directed to Fields in Manchester by the Sea.

the picture of Satty Fairchild: See Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents.

The Fairchild family were frequent subjects for American painter John Singer Sargent (1856-1925). The painting Jewett describes seems not to be among the many of his painting that can be viewed on-line.

Fields has used her green pencil to delete Jewett's "the" in this phrase and write above it her own more readable "the".

any more: Fields has deleted these words and placed a "+" before them in black pencil.

Minnie: The Trafton Collection transcription of the final paragraph (see below) adds the information that Minnie is an employee in Carrie Eastman's household.

The Trafton text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

that pretty 'Georgic of Virgil": At about line 64 of Book 4 of *The Georgics*, Virgil (Publius Vergilius Maro, 70-19 BC) recommends the prospective beekeeper to "raise a noise / Of tinkling all around, and shake the Cymbals / Of the Mighty Mother" in order to call a swarm of bees to a new hive.

Jewett has placed a "single"quotation mark before Georgic and a double quotation mark after Virgil.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

This appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), pp. 214-5.

Well, I mustn't write about folkses this busy morning, but tell important tales about my walking up the garden yesterday afternoon, and hearing a great buzz-buzzing over among the apple trees, and seeing the whole air brown with a swarm of bees, and rushing for one of the old hives and trying to take them; but off they went, leaving part of their company about some comb which they had fastened on a bough of a tree, a thing I never saw before. Minnie, who is an experienced country person from Bantry Bay, as we have long known, came out ringing a bell as if she were one of those who took the bees in that pretty "Georgic" of Virgil. There never was anything simpler or prettier. We got the remainder bees and their pieces of white new comb into the hive, and there they are, I suppose, in all the rain. I coveted the big swarm that went away. It was such a pretty, lucky thing to go out and find them.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mabel Lowell Burnett

148 Charles Street

Saturday morning

[*13 or 20 June 1891*]*

My dear Mabel

Yesterday went S.O.J. to Elmwood and found its lady flown, a most astonishing and unlooked for catastrophe!

I was not displeased (to speak now as your medical advisor!) but I missed you very much. It was

[*Page 2*]

a great pleasure to find your father* in such a bettered condition. I have not seen him look so much like himself for a good while, not pale and ill as he was on the day of my last visit, but with better colour, and what strength he [*deletion*] has is of a better sort.

[*Page 3*]

He was sitting on the piazza as I came up the avenue, a-perusing of the Moonstone by Wilkie Collins,* and I stayed a while and had a most beautiful quiet [time *?*], the [fringe *?*] tree seemed at times to make a third. I shall always remember the little visit with best pleasure —

Mrs. Fields* had to come to town just

[*Page 4*]

now for Board meetings and things and so I have been entertained in Charley Street though I ^had^ proffered a brief visit to Manchester. I had a good many things to do in town and so I was not sorry to stay here but it has been precious hot I can tell you! If I were not so tearing busy about the Berwick Academy Centennial Celebration* — at present the

[*Up the left margin & in the top margin of page 1*]

most important thing in the civilized world and to come off on the first of July as you may have heard —I should "clip it" to Petersham and spend a day or two with you. I should like it so much. In

[*Up the left margin & in the top margin of page 2*]

fact, it is a pleasure to think what a good time we should have. Please to think of me if you dont write, and remember that I am always yours most affectionately. S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

I saw the children playing about but I did not hold speech with either Lois or Esther.* When I left your father I found that I could just catch a car if I cut, so cut I did — please

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

over look my unnecessary use of colloquialisms in this letter.

Notes

June 1891: It seems probable that Jewett wrote this letter on one of the Saturdays after Annie Fields's birthday on 6 June and before the Berwick Academy Centennial on 1 July 1891.

father: James Russell Lowell (died 12 August 1891) was Burnett's father. Key to Correspondents. The family home was Elmwood in Cambridge, MA.

Wilkie Collins: British author Wilkie Collins (1824-1889) published his detective novel, *The Moonstone*, in 1868. Wikipedia.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Berwick Academy Centennial Celebration: The centennial celebration of the founding of Berwick Academy took place on 1 July 1891.

Lois or Esther: Burnett's daughters, Esther Lowell Burnett Cunningham (1879-1966) and Lois Burnett Rantoul (1881-1961). Find a Grave.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. A.L.s. (S.O.J.) to Mabel [(Lowell) Burnett]; South Berwick, 7 Jun [1885], [1885], in James Russell Lowell additional papers / Series: I. Correspondence and compositions, Box: 2 MS Am 1483, (187). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writers Collection, Burton Trafton Collection, Box 2, folder 86.

Sarah Orne Jewett to The Editor of the *Portsmouth* (NH) *Journal*

South Berwick Maine

[*16 June 1891*]*

To The Editor of the Portsmouth Journal

My dear Sir

By order of the Executive Committee I enclose a card of admission to the one hundredth anniversary of the [Founding *changed from* founding] of Berwick Academy. In case you are not disposed to use the card

[*Page 2*]

or to send a representative of the paper, I enclose also a printed slip which will give you some idea of the programme for the day and some facts of the old school's history. In former times there were many [students *corrected*] sent to Berwick from Portsmouth and Colonel Peirce* and

[*Page 3*]

other well known Portsmouth men served on the Board of Trustees. I think that if you have space for some extracts from the 'slip' they might prove interesting to a good number of your readers and we should be much obliged by any attention of your own to the subject.

In Dr. John Lord's* historical address you are sure to

[*Page 4*]

find many new items of that local historical nature for which you paper is so much valued. This will be printed later, and I will take care that a copy is sent to you.

Believe me yours very truly

Sarah Orne Jewett

The Committee asks for an answer which may be sent to me.

Notes

1891: Jewett has dated her letter 16 July 1891, but the centennial celebration to which she refers was held on 1 July 1891, two weeks before the date of this letter. Probably, she meant to write "June."

Colonel Peirce: Probably this is Joshua Winslow Peirce (1791-1874), a prominent businessman from the area of Portsmouth, NH and South Berwick, ME.

Dr. John Lord's: Key to Correspondents. His address was printed in *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine.*

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries,

Department of Rare Books and Special Collections; Cairns Collection of American Women Writers, Comprehensive collection of works by Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Samuel Thomas Pickard

South Berwick Maine

16 June 1891

My dear Mr. Pickard

By order of the Executive Committee I enclose for the Transcript a ticket of [admission *corrected*] to the One-hundredth anniversary Berwick Academy.* In case, as is quite likely, you do not think it worth

[*Page 2*]

while to send a representative (or to come yourself which I should like very much!) I enclose also a printed slip which will give you something of the programme for the Great Day and some facts of the old school's history. —— Now that a very large sum of money has been left for a library it will

[*Page 3*]

help the Academy to rise still faster above the decadence into which it, with all the old Academies was thrown temporarily by the High Schools. At any rate it has been too valuable and distinguished for the people of eastern Maine not to do it honour now.

[*Page 4*]

It will give me great pleasure if I can answer any questions or do any thing at any time for your paper. I believe that it has done so much good beside giving pleasure to my fellow country men!

With very kind regards to Mrs Pickard and yourself pray believe me

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Academy: the centennial celebration of the Berwick Academy took place on 1 July 1891.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909, MS Am 1844, Box 9, item 537.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mellen Chamberlain

148 Charles Street

Sunday Morning

[*Spring 1891*]*

Dear Judge Chamberlain

Mrs. Fields* has just come up the stairs to me to ask if I will not write this note for her to you about a young man who has come to her for help. He has done some very good work in verse and considering his youth, shows a touch of real promise but the poor fellow is so beaten back by illness and poverty that he is in a

[*Page 2*]

sad way. His disabilities hinder him in what he is trying to make of him self as a compositor — Mrs. Fields thinks that you may know of something to recommend to him in library channels familiar to you, where his acquaintance with books and his carefulness with his pen may be of use. He spoke

[*Page 3*]

of you gratefully in answer to her mention of your name, as "a kind and approachable man" — so that we are following our own instinct in sending him to you. We shall try to do what we can for him too —

I wish that we might sometimes see you. I have

[*Page 4*]

not been in town this winter however except for some brief visits —-

In haste, with kindest regards from both Mrs Fields and myself

Yours most sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1891: This date is a guess with some support. See note below and Jewett's letter, above, to Fields in which she mentions poor Henry Coyle.

By 1893, Chamberlain was retired and in ill health, less able to aid a younger man seeking appropriate work. This letter almost certainly was not written any later than 1891.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Fields.

for help: John Alden identifies this young man as Henry Coyle, a poet about whom biographical information seems scanty. WorldCat gives his birth year as 1865 and lists the following publications:

The Promise of Morning (poems, 1899),
Our Church, Her Children and Institutions (1908),
Lyrics of Faith and Hope (poems, 1913).

Find a Grave presents what seems to be a page for him, giving his life dates as 1865-1892.

The following image and biographical sketch appear in *Donahoe's Magazine* 39 (1898) pp. 74-5.

One of the best known of our younger writers is Henry Coyle. Although only twenty-eight, Mr. Coyle is already distinguished as a leading literary man in our city. He is editor of the "Weekly Bouquet," and is also contributor to several periodicals and high class journals, both secular and religious. While a writer of graceful prose, he is best known as a poet. Judge Tourgee accepted one of his poems for "The Continent" when the poet was scarcely thirteen. To-day, there are few journals in the country in which his work has not appeared. All his poetry is Catholic in tone, and personally he is one of the truest of friends.

Henry Coyle was born in Boston, June 7th, 1869. He attended public schools until he was twelve years old, when he went to work for a time in a store, then in a law office, and next in a printing office, where he learnt typesetting.

He managed, after his daily toil, to persevere in his studies and acquire a full knowledge of the masters' works, which have eminently qualified him for the expression of his literary gift.

His work has been praised by such critics as John G. Whittier, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, Richard Watson Gilder and John Boyle O'Reilly. His education has been acquired largely at the compositor's case, and through much reading, travel and observation.

Mr. Coyle has passed through the school of adversity, and suffered much from ill health, but nothing like a complaint has ever been made by him.

He knows what struggle means, and is ever ready to lend a helping hand to fellow toilers. This biographical sketch appears in *The Poets of Ireland* (1891) p. 85.

COYLE, HENRY. — *The Promise of Morning*, poems, Boston, Mass., 1899.

Born at Boston, Mass., June 7, 1867. His father was a Connaught man, and his mother from Limerick. He is self-educated, and has written frequently for American journals, including verse for *Harper's Bazaar*, *Detroit Free Press*, Boston *Transcript*, *Catholic Union and Times* (Buffalo), and Boston *Pilot*. Is now assistant-editor of *Orphan's Bouquet*, Boston, of which James Riley (q.v.) is editor.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library Archives & Special Collections: MS Am 1400, Mellen Chamberlain Papers, Box 14, Folder: 671. An annotated transcription by John Alden appeared in *Boston Public Library Quarterly* 9 (1957): 86-96. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Samuel Thomas Pickard

South Berwick

21 June 1891

Dear Mr. Pickard

What you say to me of your ideas about The Academy* compared to the high school is just what we wish to have said in answer to a toast {—} The Province of The Academy. Will you do the Committee

[*Page 2*]

the great favor to respond to that toast in a "five minutes speech"? I hope that there is really no

doubt about your coming — I personally am very eager that the press of our own state should be represented.

[*Page 3*]

We are late in making such requests, for we could not get about it until we were sure of our guests. Mr. George C. Yeaton,* our ^well-known^ lawyer, is to be Toastmaster, but I am writing for him since he is too much occupied

[*Page 4*]

just now to do it himself.

Thank you, I should like very much to have the Transcript regularly — I always like it when I read it irregularly — as I have often assured you and other people.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Academy: Jewett refers to the centennial celebration of the Berwick Academy that took place on 1 July 1891.

Yeaton: George Campbell Yeaton (1836-1918) was a prominent South Berwick attorney, known locally for his prosecution of Louis Wagner in the Smuttynose murder case on the Isles of the Shoals, about which Celia Thaxter writes in "A Memorable Murder," *Atlantic Monthly*, May 1875.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909, MS Am 1844, Box 9, item 537.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Edwin A. Norton

[*June 1891*]*

Edwin A. Norton Esq[re]

Dear Sir

Will you on your arrival go directly to the Baptist church where the morning Exercises of the Celebration of the Academy anniversary will take place ^at eleven o'clock^. The church is close to the South Berwick village station

[*Page 2*]

on the Conway branch of the Eastern Railroad. You can take the 7.30 train from the Boston Station unless you can arrange to come before — Or you can take the 8.30 train from Haymarket Square B & Maine Station and get out at Salmon Falls — where you will

[*Page 3*]

find carriages. The committee would like to have you occupy a seat on the platform at the church. I am

Yours very truly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

June 1891: This letter was composed shortly before the 1 July 1891 celebration of the Berwick Academy Centennial.

Edwin A. Norton (c. 1811-1897) was in the class of 1820, according to *A Memorial of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of Berwick Academy, South Berwick, Maine*, p. 86. According to FamilySearch, he was born in South Berwick. He became a merchant in Portland, ME and retired to Brookline, MA. In 1833, he married Abigail Babson (1811-1896).

In the MWWC folder with this manuscript is an envelope addressed to Mr. Norton at Brookline, MA.

Folder 146a, associated with this letter, contains a printed invitation. Handwritten after "To" is Edwin A. Norton Esq. Also handwritten is the signature of the secretary, Mary Rice Jewett. The invitation reads:

To [*Edwin A. Norton, Esq*]

The celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of Berwick Academy will take place on Wednesday, the first of July, in the coming summer. The occasion is sure to be one of great interest. It is important that the Committee of Arrangements should know as soon as possible how large a company of pupils and guests of the School may be expected.

Your presence is kindly requested and a post-card is enclosed for your immediate answer to this invitation.

[*Signature: Mary R Jewett*]
Secretary for the Committee
South Berwick, Maine, May, 1891

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 2 Folders 146 and 146a.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Tuesday

[*30 June 1891*]*

Pinny* Speaked last night !! ~~~~~~~~~~~~

She speaked at a banquet given by the Berwick Scholars and will now make other engagements ~~~~~~~

There were some forty persons present ~~~~~

She sends her love

[*Page 2*]

as usual ~~~~~~~

Tomorrow is The Day* and today is the day before. So that I can only have two [*deleted word; and Jewett has inserted and deleted* words] words with my Fuffatee* — (Helen Merriman* sent me a phot. of S.W.'s* picture. I mean the

[*Manuscript breaks off. No signature*]

Notes

Pinny: Pinny Lawson (Pinny / Pin) was an affectionate nickname for Jewett, used by her and Annie Fields.

The Day: Almost certainly Jewett refers to the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Berwick Academy, which took place on 1 July 1891.

Fuffatee: Annie Adams Fields.

Helen Merriman: Key to Correspondents.

S.W.'s little portrait: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents. Information about the portrait has not yet been discovered.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton Mifflin & Company

[*30 June 1891*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Gentlemen

I should have acknowledged the receipt of the programmes yesterday as I received them early in the morning. I thank you very much for your care and promptness and

[*Page 2*]

I am glad to say that they are very much admired by the Committee whose deputy I was in ordering them! and also, by

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett.

Will you please have the account sent to me as soon as possible?

Notes

1891: At the top right of page 1, in another hand: "S. O. Jewett. 6/30". At the left top is a note in another hand, blue ink, "H.O.H. & Co. Please note F.J." H.O.H. is Henry Oscar Houghton, and F.J. is Francis Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

A vertical line has been drawn through the center of Jewett's postscript.

At the bottom of page 2 are the initials: "A.R.S," probably for Azariah Smith. The middle initial transcription is uncertain. Key to Correspondents.

Almost certainly Jewett's subject is the printing of programs for the 1 July 1891 Berwick Academy 100th anniversary celebration.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).